NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

バキ

BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

KEISUKE ITAGAKI PRESENTS
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

板垣恵介

No.21

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

バキ BAKI

21

板垣恵介

秋田書店

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少年チャンピオン・コミックス
SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

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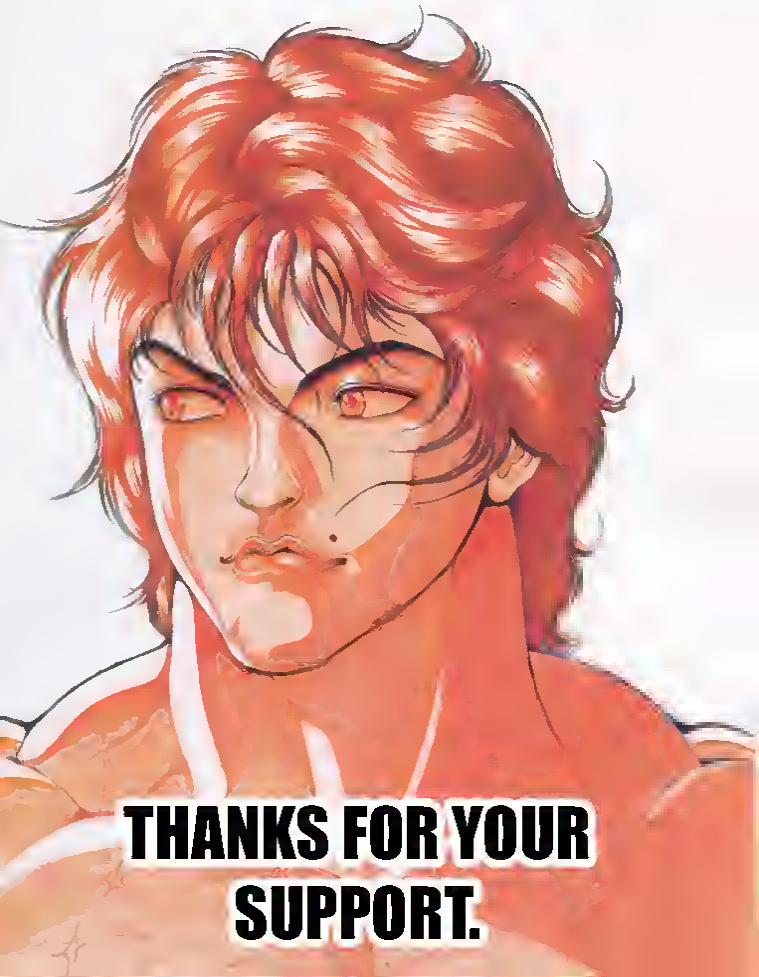

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東京 秋田書店 発行

Keisuke Itagaki

ラスベガス近郊 レッドロックキャニオンにて

Q. 座右の銘は？

A. 「不自然主義」

これは僕の造語で、
自分が目的を達成しようという時は、
不自然なことをしなければ
実現できないという持論。
普段はほとんど自分らしく
やっているわけだから、
目的を達成しようという時くらいは
不自然にゆくべき。

板垣恵介[好評作品]
少年チャンピオン・コミックス
メイキャッパー全3巻
グラップラー刃牙全42巻
グラップラー刃牙 外伝
絶賛発売中!!

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

★★★★

バキ BAKI 21

板垣恵介

秋田書店

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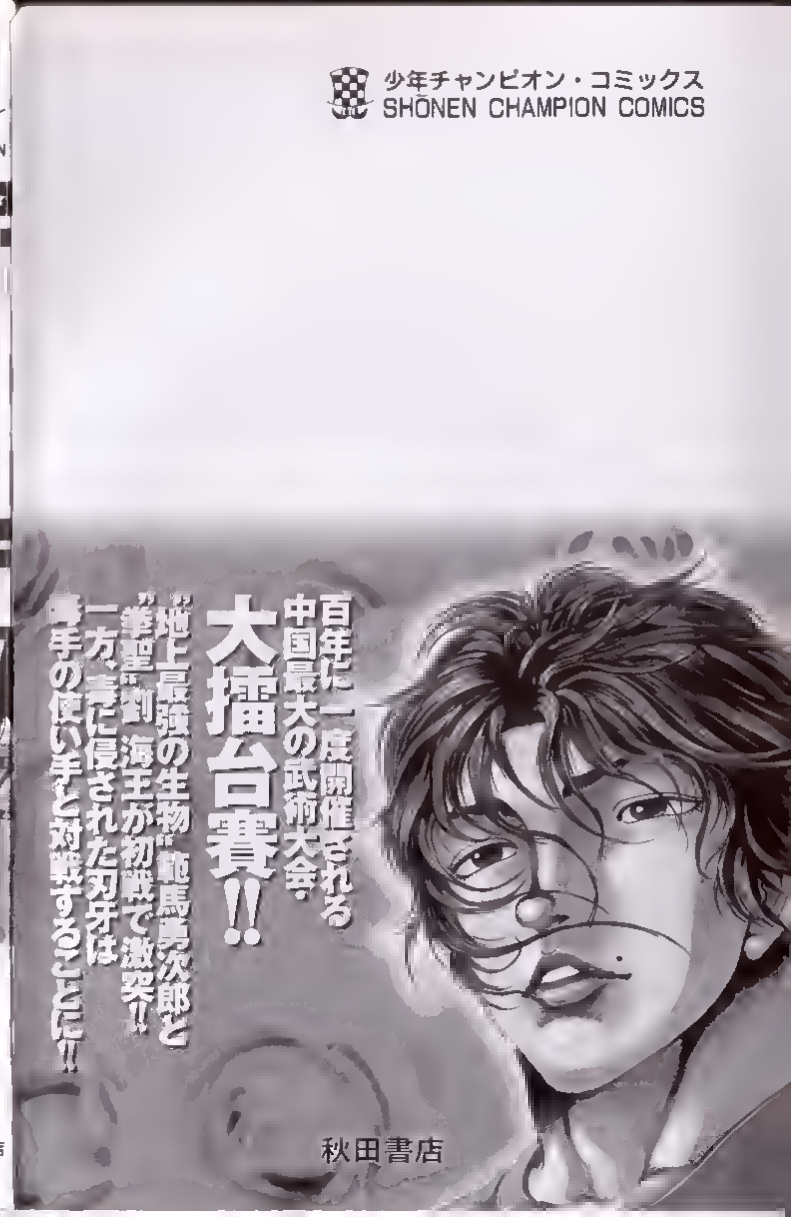

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IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

SHONEN CHAMPION COMICS

No.21

【週刊少年チャンピオン掲載】

Keisuke Itagaki

板垣恵介（いたがきけいすけ）

CAST & STORY

郭海皇

▷前擂台賞覇者、海王中の海王。

怒李龍海王

▷凶元刑囚の一人。

烈海王

▷十二人の海王の「八人」。最大トーナメントにも出場。

海王

サムワン海王

劉海王

孫海王

楊海王

陳海王

叔海王

除海王

李海王

範海王

毛海王

In search of our strongest hero

前巻まで

毒に蝕まれた身体を癒すため、急遽中国へと渡った刃牙。そこで彼を待ち受けていたのは百年に一度開催される中国最大の武術祭典・大擂台賽だった!! そしてなんと、父・勇次郎とマホメドJrまでもが参戦を表明し…!?

範馬刃牙

▷本編の主人公。毒による絶対絶命のピンチを梢の涙によって克服、復活をはたした!!

松本梢

△バキの幼馴染みで恋人。

NEW GRAPPLER BAKI

BAKI

IN SEARCH OF OUR STRONGEST HERO

マホメドJr.

▷バキの父親。地上最強を実践する超絶的な漢。偉大なチャンピオン、マホメド・アライの息子。

範馬勇次郎

BAKI

バキ

No. 21

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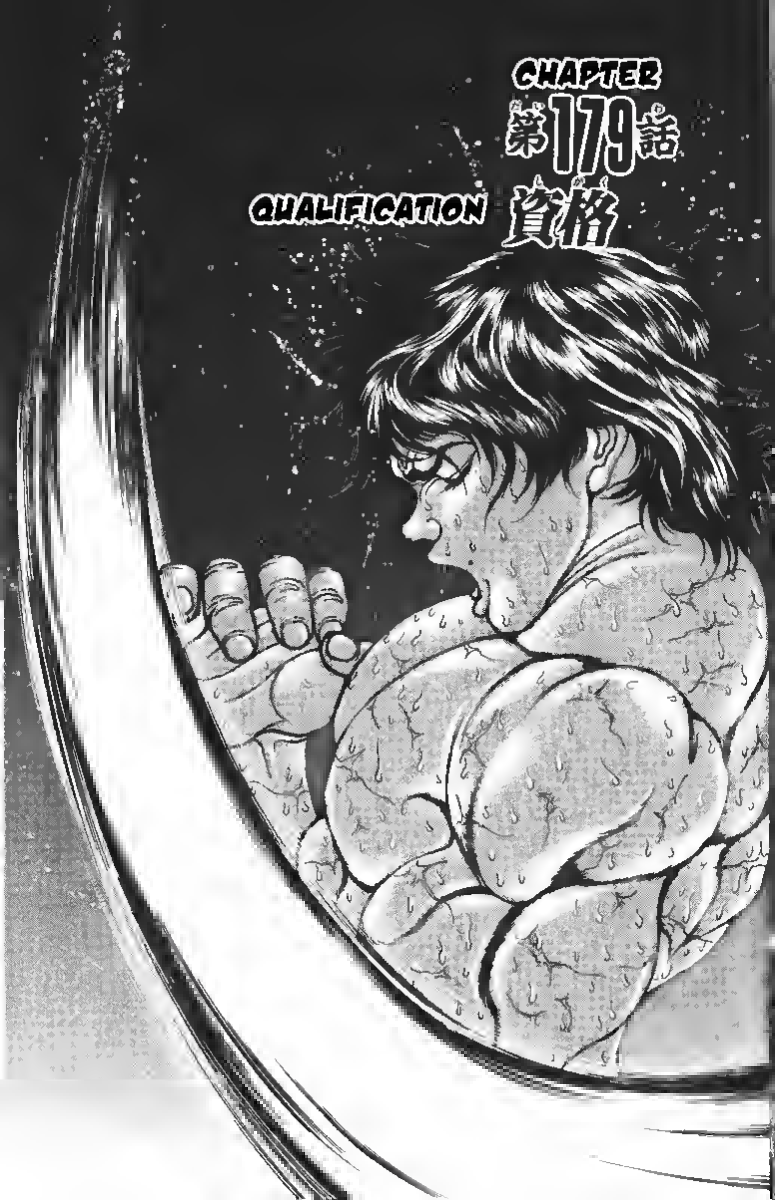
●この物語はフィクションであり、実在のいかなる団体・個人とも一切関係ありません。


CHAPTER
第179話
QUALIFICATION
資格

WHAT...?
ONLY TWO NAMES ON IT!
劉
RYU
KAIOU
海王
範馬
HANMA
YUUJIRO
次郎

OUR PROUD RYU KAIOU AGAINST...
HANMA...YU ...?
WHO IS THE GUY??
AND THE VICTIM IT'S GONNA BE A JAPANESE!
THE POWERFUL RYU KAIOU STARTS THE EVENT, THE GOD WARRIOR!!

TO PUT A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THEIR SKILLS,
AND TO BE FAIR TO EVERY FIGHTER,
WE ANNOUNCE EACH OPPONENT RIGHT BEFORE THE FIGHT.

ALL THE REST OF THE CHALLENGERS PLEASE GO TO THE DESIGNATED AREAS...

THE TWO FIGHTERS ANNOUNCED, PLEASE REMAIN ON THE STAGE

EH?
HE'S NEVER JOINED IN ANY TOURNAMENT AS A CHALLENGER, THERE IS SOMETHING GOING ON HERE...
HE REALLY CAME... EVEN THOUGH HE LOVES TO TRASH TOURNA-MENTS AND MATCHES..
DAD... WH..?

HAVE YOU JUST HEARD THE ANNOUNCER?
GET OUT OF HERE...
SIT DOWN AND ENJOY THE SHOW...
"CHALLEN-GER"

THE FIRST TWO FIGHTERS ON THE RAITAI.
WE'RE HAVING A SPECIAL TRIAL. FOR THE VISITOR.
AS IS CUSTOMARY.
WHAT KIND OF TRIAL?
A TEST?

HIS MIGHT HAS BEEN PROVEN SO MANY TIMES, HE PASSED.
OUR PROUD RYU KAIOU.

IF HE IS QUALIFIED TO BE ON THIS RAITAI STAGE OR NOT, IS UNKNOWN YET...
HOWEVER HANMA YUUJIRO,

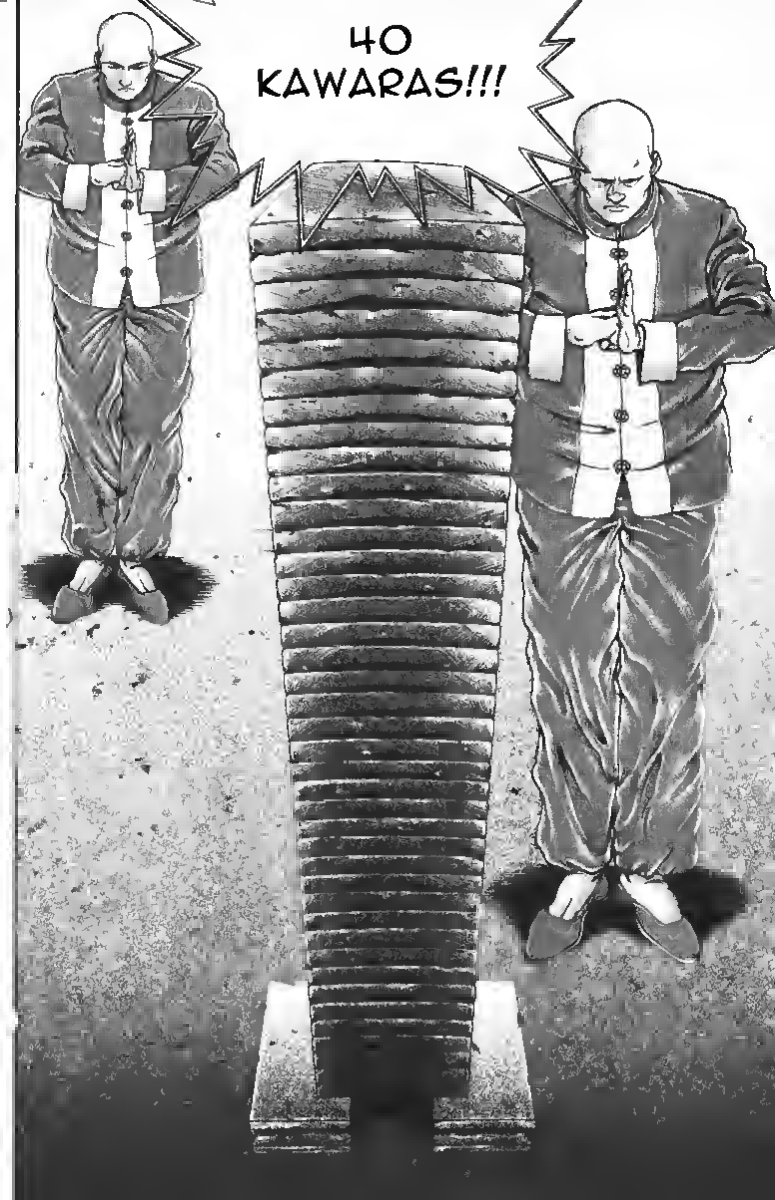
A TRIAL TEST!!
FOR THE JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTIST...
FOR THIS VERY REASON OUR CHINESE MARTIAL ARTS ASSOCIATION HAS PREPARED...

THESE ARE CALLED "KAWARA".

MANY JAPANESE HOUSES HAVE THESE KAWARA ON THE TOP OF THEIR ROOFS.

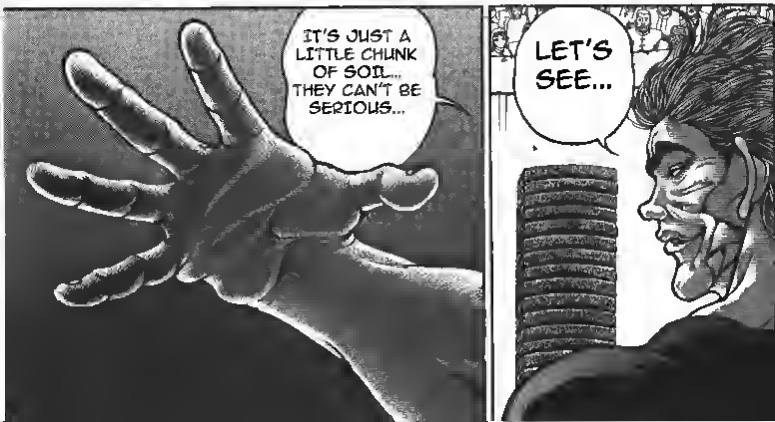
EXTREMELY STRONG MATERIAL.
THESE WERE ORIGINALLY IMPORTED FROM CHINA TO JAPAN IN THE ZUI PERIOD (581-618 AD.)

JAPANESE FIGHTERS SHOW THEIR STRENGTH BY HOW MANY KAWARA THEY CAN BREAK.
IT'S A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WAY TO SHOW THEIR STRENGTH!
IT IS SAID STRONG FIGHTERS CAN BREAK MORE THAN 10 EASILY.
BUT THIS TIME BECAUSE IS THE STRONGEST'S TEST...
WE HAVE PREPARED...


40
KAWARAS!!!

WE'D LIKE TO ASK MR. HANMA TO TRY IT!
THE TOWER OF KAWARA THAT WE HAVE HERE.
PLEASE BREAK THESE KAWARA!!
IF YOU THINK YOU ARE A WORTHY CHALLENGER TO BE PART OF THE RAITAI,
SHOW US YOUR TRUE STRENGHT !!!
HOW MANY KAWARAS CAN HE BREAK!?

WELL, ACTUALLY, I'VE NEVER DONE IT BEFORE...
BREAKING KAWARAS...


IT'S JUST A LITTLE CHUNK OF SOIL... THEY CAN'T BE SERIOUS...
LET'S SEE...

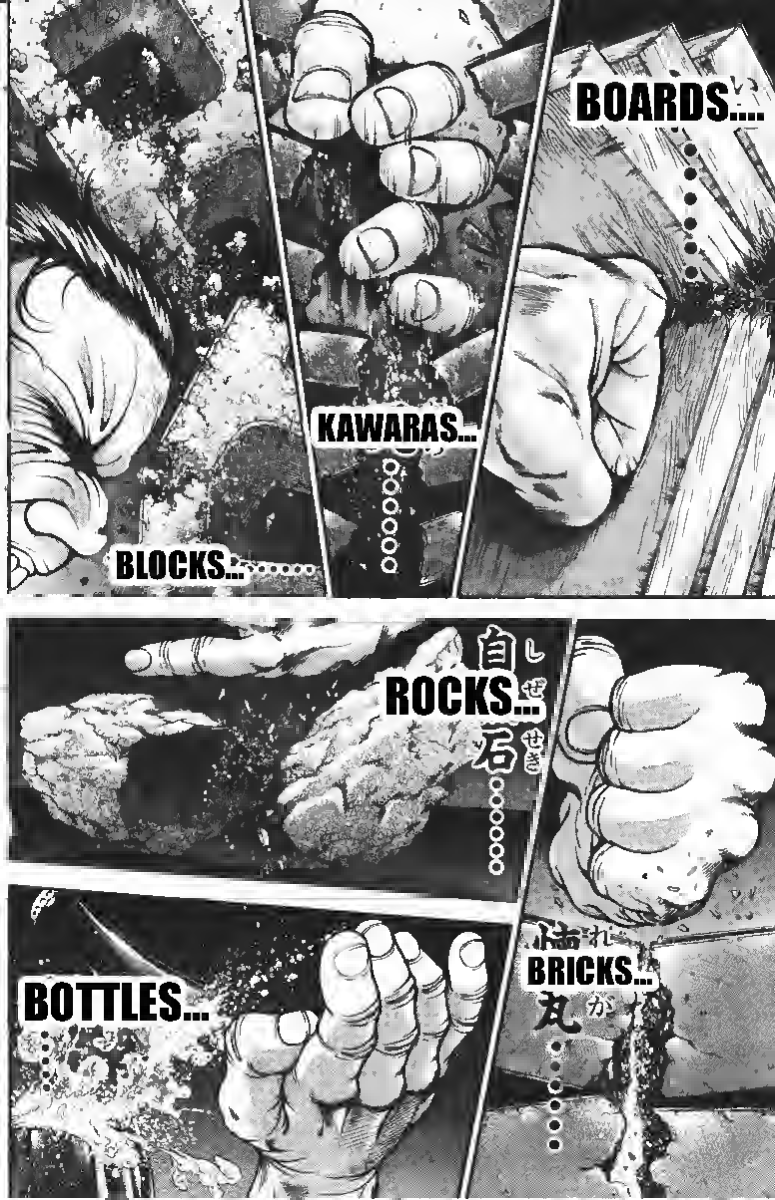
IT WON'T BE ENOUGH TO SHOW MY STRENGTH THOUGH, BUT...

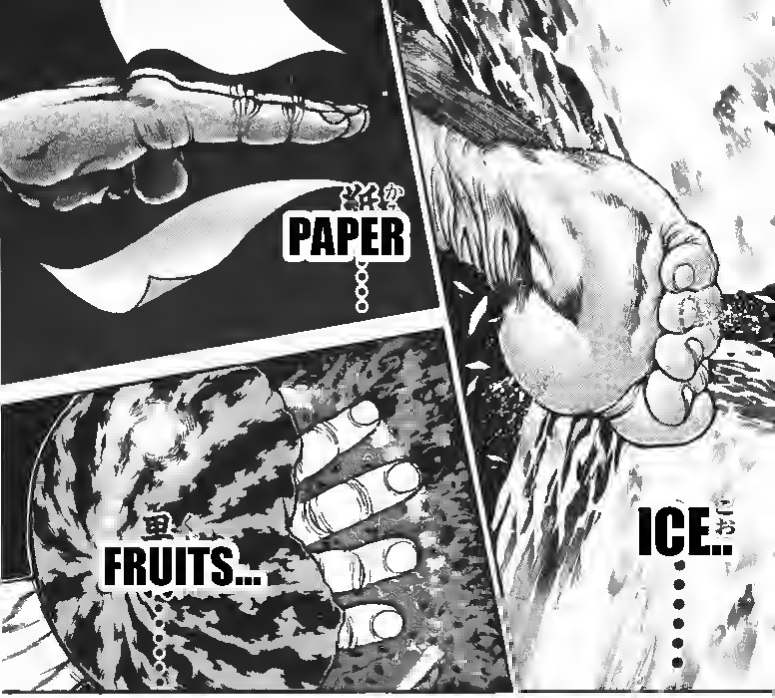
WHOA...

HE DID IT!
HE PASSED THE TEST!!

CHAPTER
第180話
TRAGEDY

WHAT A DUMB WASTE OF TIME...
BREAKING KAWARAS ...
HOW CAN YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ME, JUST WATCHING ME BREAKING MUD TILES?
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?
HEY LONG KAIOU...


BOARDS....
KAWARAS...
BLOCKS...
白石 ROCKS...
瓦礫 BRICKS...
BOTTLES...


紙
PAPER
果
FRUITS...
氷
ICE...

WHICH WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIGHT BACK TO US.
MY POINT... PUNCHING, KICKING, AND BREAKING THINGS...

THAT IS A LITTLE SILLY, ISN'T IT?
MARTIAL ARTS ARE...

ORIGINALLY FROM THE CONCEPT OF "WEAK".
ONE DAY, THEY'LL GAIN THE ABILITY OF BREAKING THEM.
THE THINGS THEY COULDN'T BREAK BEFORE,
BREAKING MATERIALS ALLOWS THE TRAINEE TO GAIN STRENGTH WITHOUT HURTING ANYONE.

I CAN'T SAY THE TRAINING WAS A WASTE OF TIME, I THINK...
SO, IF WE CONSIDER BREAKING MATERIALS IS ONE OF TRAININGS BEFORE FIGHTING ACTUAL PEOPLE,
JIT
REALLY ...?

IN THAT CASE...
LET ME SHOW YOU...

NOTHING MORE THAN BULLSHIT !!!
笑(わら)い足(た)らぬ
歴史(きし)だったことを!!!

THAT THE TRAINING YOU'VE BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST 100 YEARS IS...

KRUG!

OTHERWISE, YOU'LL REALLY GET HURT.
DON'T MOVE...

AH, YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN OLD MAN... SEE WHAT HAPPENS...

ドゴ
ビッ

IT'S ABOUT TIME TO GET A NEW ONE...
YOU'VE BEEN USING IT FOR 100 YEARS.

ハハ
ミヤロ

CHAPTER
第181話
RYU KAIOU
LONG KAIOU IN CHINESE

LONG...
SUCH CRUELTY...

THE FIGHT IS OVER...
THAT'S HOW I SEE IT ANYWAY...

ブル
ブル
ブル
I'M DONE HERE.. LET'S SEE THE OTHER BATTLES...

ピチャ
チッ

HANMA YUUJIRO!!!!
ドバッ

RETSU KAIOU HAS COME!
IT'S RETSU!
オオオオ
オオオオ

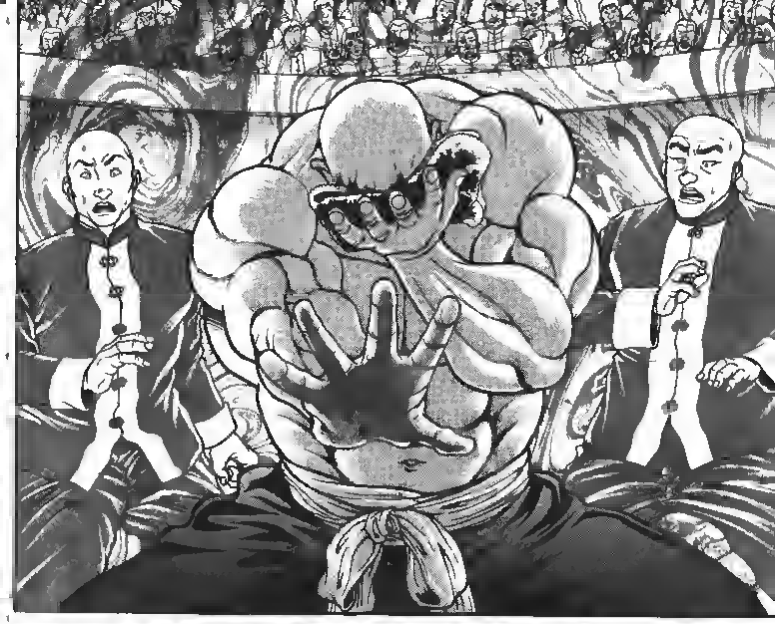
WHAT?
YOU FUCKER!!
WELL...

DO YOU WANT AN AUTOGRAPH? OR A PICTURE WITH ME?
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
YOU ARE NOT LEAVING THIS PLACE ALIVE!!!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU RIGHT NOW...

THIS IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT...
CRACK
CRACK

EXCELLENT...

ゴッ



EH?

MASTER...?
HOW...?
EH?

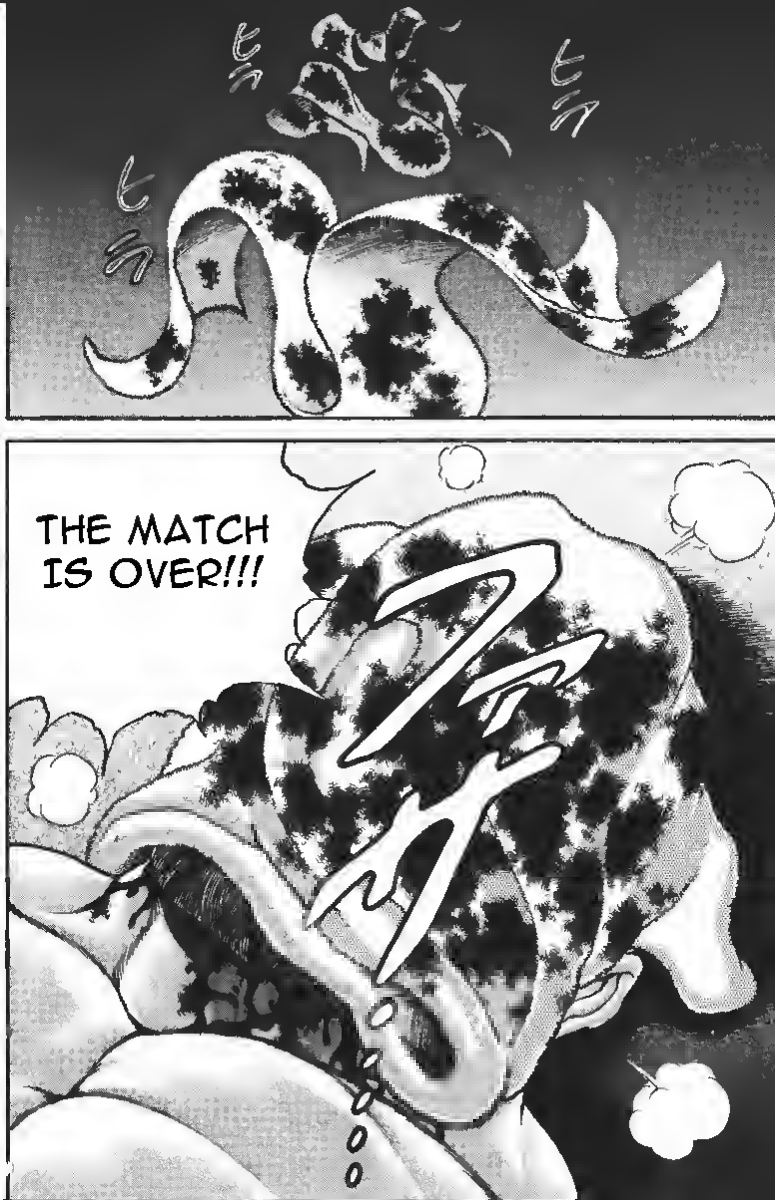
HM..?
DONT YOU EVER....
INSULT ME LIKE THIS...!!

TAC

!
YOU ARE SLY, OLD MAN!!
WHOA!

ヒュ

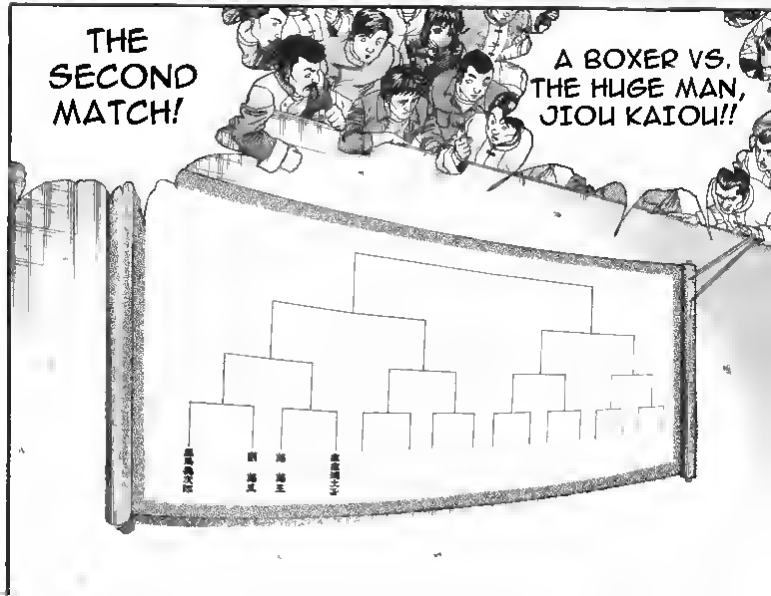
ドドドドド

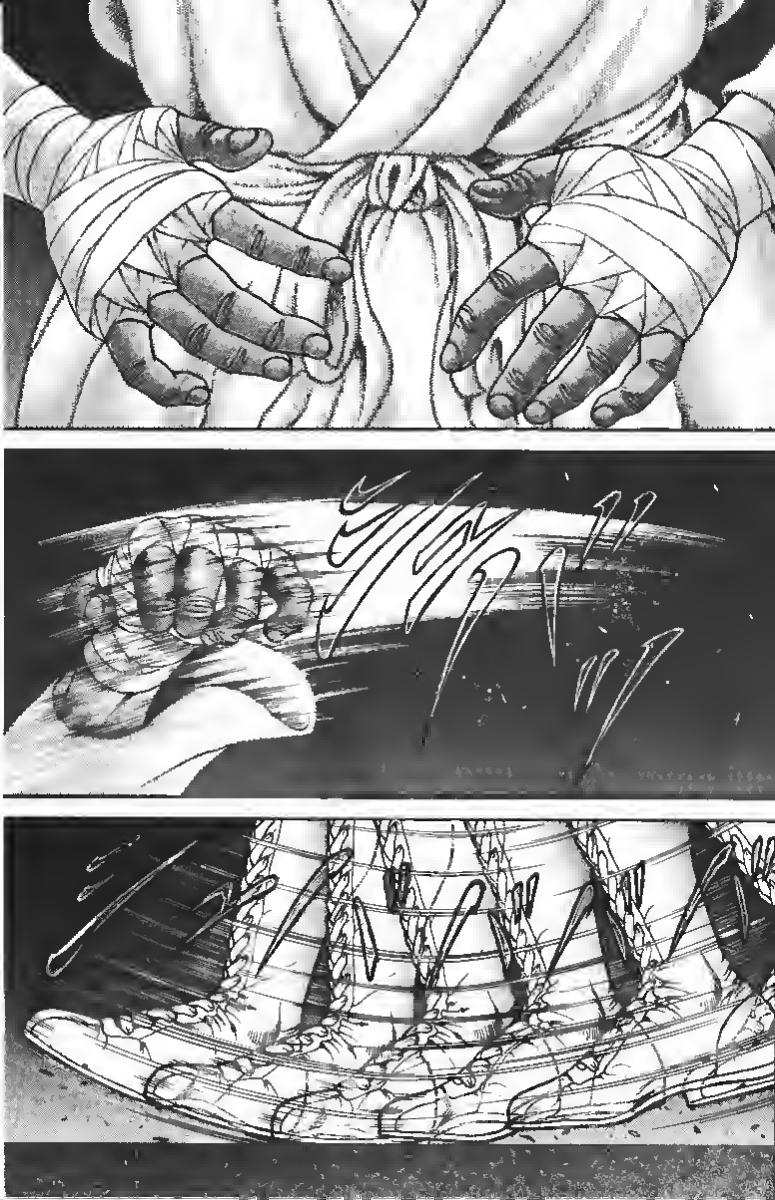

THE MATCH IS OVER!!!

CHAPTER
第182話
PRAYERS

除
JIOU KAIOU
海王

魔
MUHAMMAD
ALI JR.
(CHINESE PHONETIC).
Jr





WOSH
SORRY

WE'VE MET IN TOKYO...
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
OH MYGOSH!! IT'S YOU... WHAT A COINCIDENCE ....
I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE YOU HERE.
.....

I WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU WERE PART OF THE TOURNAMENT.
I DIDN'T EITHER...
BUT, DON'T WORRY. I'LL GET THE TITLE...
HA, HA ,HA... YEAH!
OH, SORRY HE IS PARTICI-PATING TOO...

I DIDN'T THINK THAT...
BECAUSE ...
BAKI HANMA WAS YOUR BOY-FRIEND...

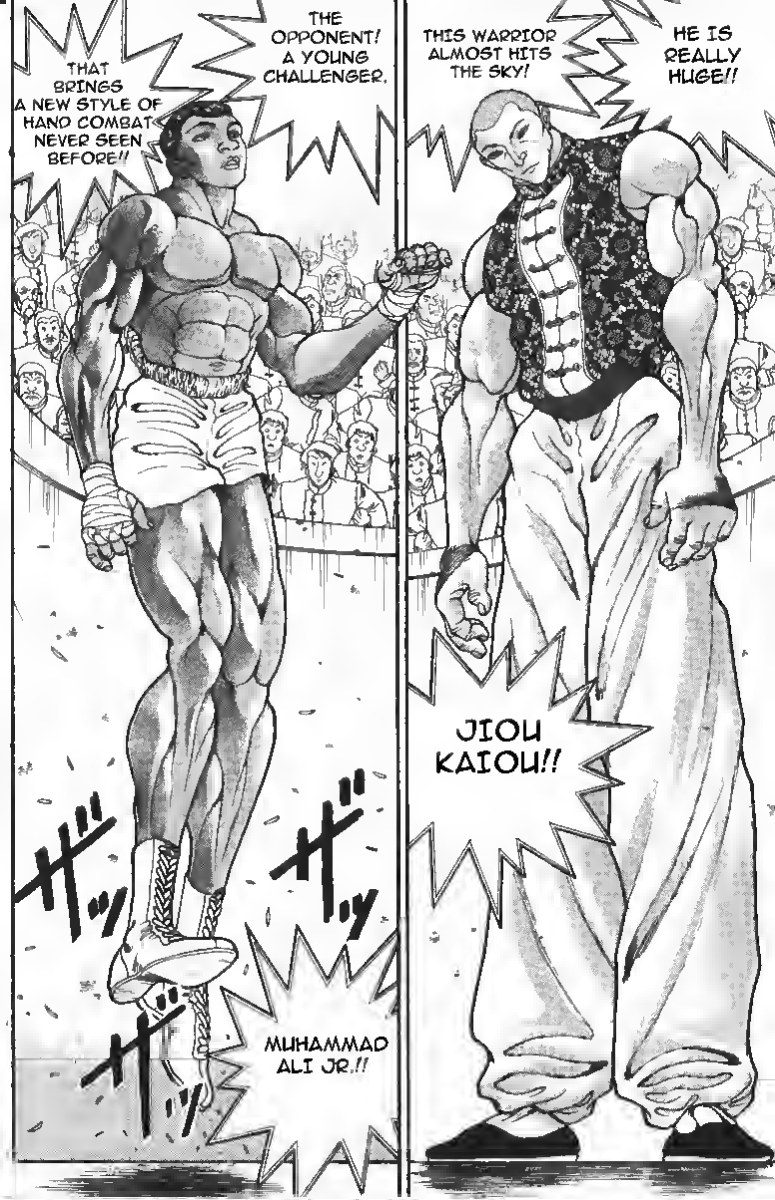
HE'S WEAK...
HE IS NOT THE BEST ONE...

グイ……
DON'T WORRY.
!
LET US PRAY FOR THE GOOD-NESS OF MR. BAKI.

PRAYING IS A DETERMI-NATION FOR YOU MAKING IT REALLY HAPPEN.
NOT JUST WISHING FOR SOMETHING THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.
PRAYING

UNTIL HE FIGHTS AGAINST ME....
TO FIGHT ME SOMEDAY...
AND IF HE EVER HAS A CHANCE...

I WILL BE WISHING HIM VICTORY AND GOOD LUCK...


THAT BRINGS A NEW STYLE OF HAND COMBAT NEVER SEEN BEFORE!!
THE OPPONENT! A YOUNG CHALLENGER.
THIS WARRIOR ALMOST HITS THE SKY!
HE IS REALLY HUGE!!
JIOU KAIOU!!
ザッ
ザッ
ザッ
MUHAMMAD ALI JR.!!

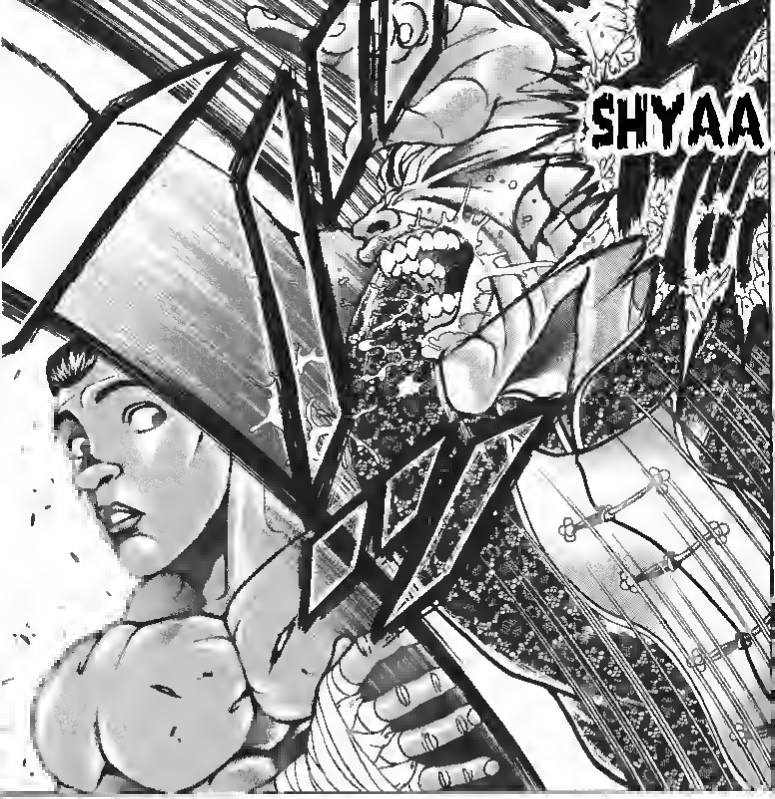
PTU
THE GONG HAS RUNG!!
FOR THE FIRST TIME TODAY!!

GIEH!

HE IS DOWN!
WILL THE FIGHT BE OVER SO QUICKLY?!!
IT WAS TOO FAST!!
HE IS ALREADY DOWN!

CHAPTER
第183話
BUTTERFLY DANCE

NO ONE EXPECTED THIS FIGHT TO BE SO SHORT !
IT WAS LIKE A LIGHTING STRIKE!!
!
AAH !!

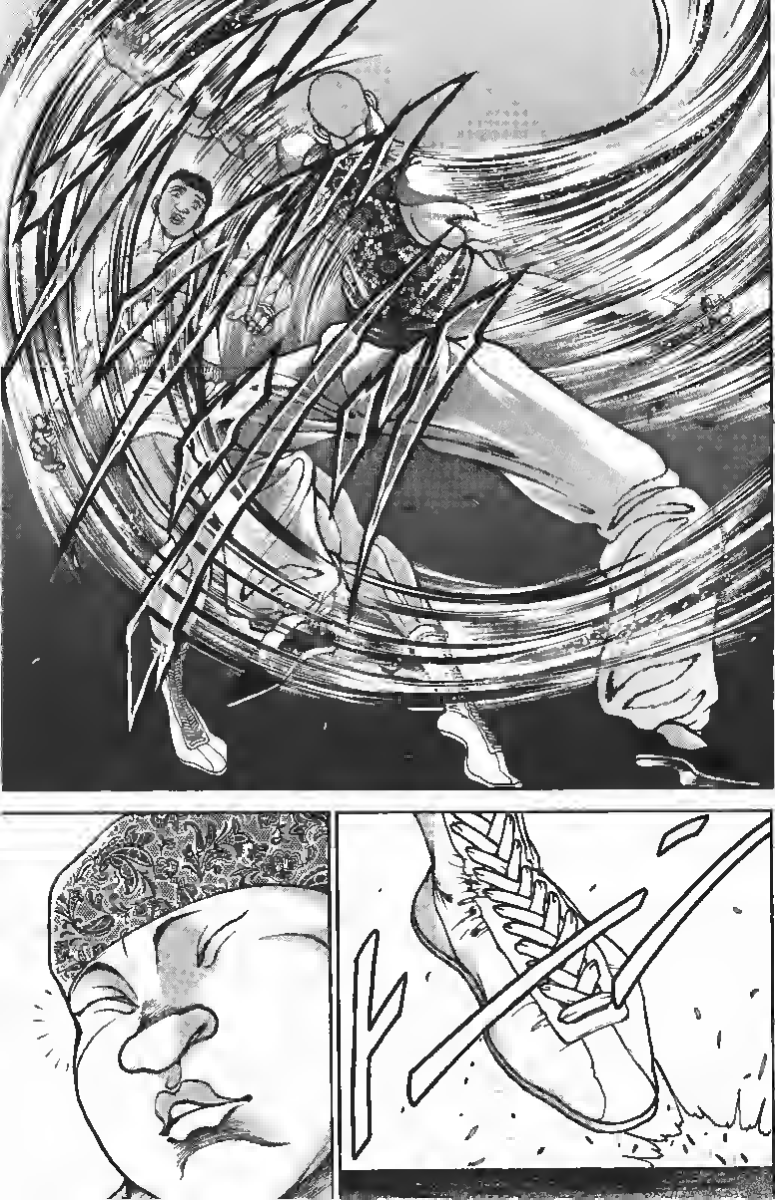

SHYAA

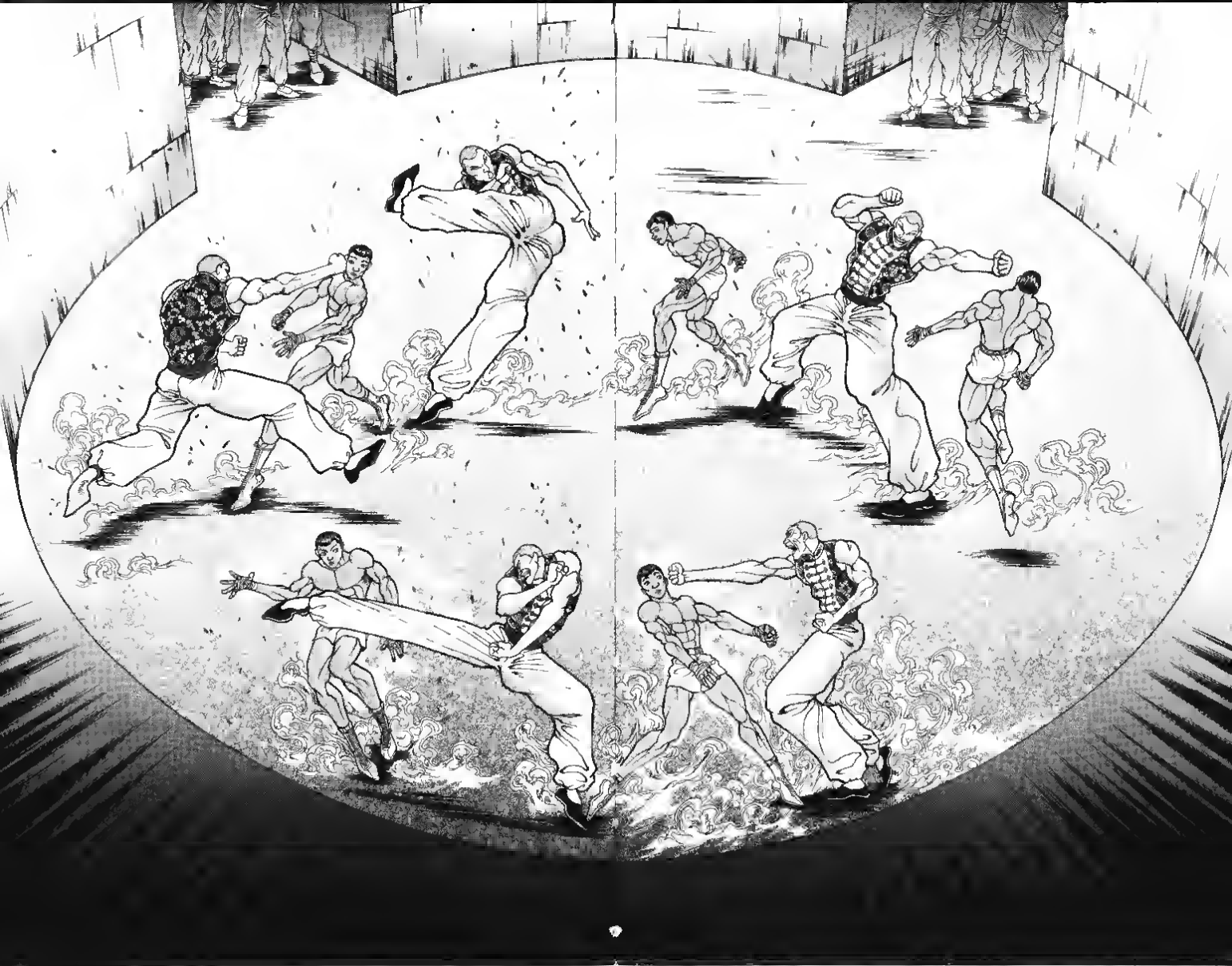
JIOU KAIOU IS UP!
OH!!

HE'S TRYING TO CONTINUE THE FIGHT!
HE'S GOT UP!
JIOU KAIOU IS UP!
OF COURSE, HE WILL...

IF YOU HAVE THIS TITLE YOU CANNOT BE KNOCKED DOWN TWICE IN A ROW.
MOTHERLAND'S GUARDIAN GOD, "KAIOU"
HE TOOK A SEVERE BLOW, THOUGH....
.....
HE MIGHT NOT HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO RECOVER
...

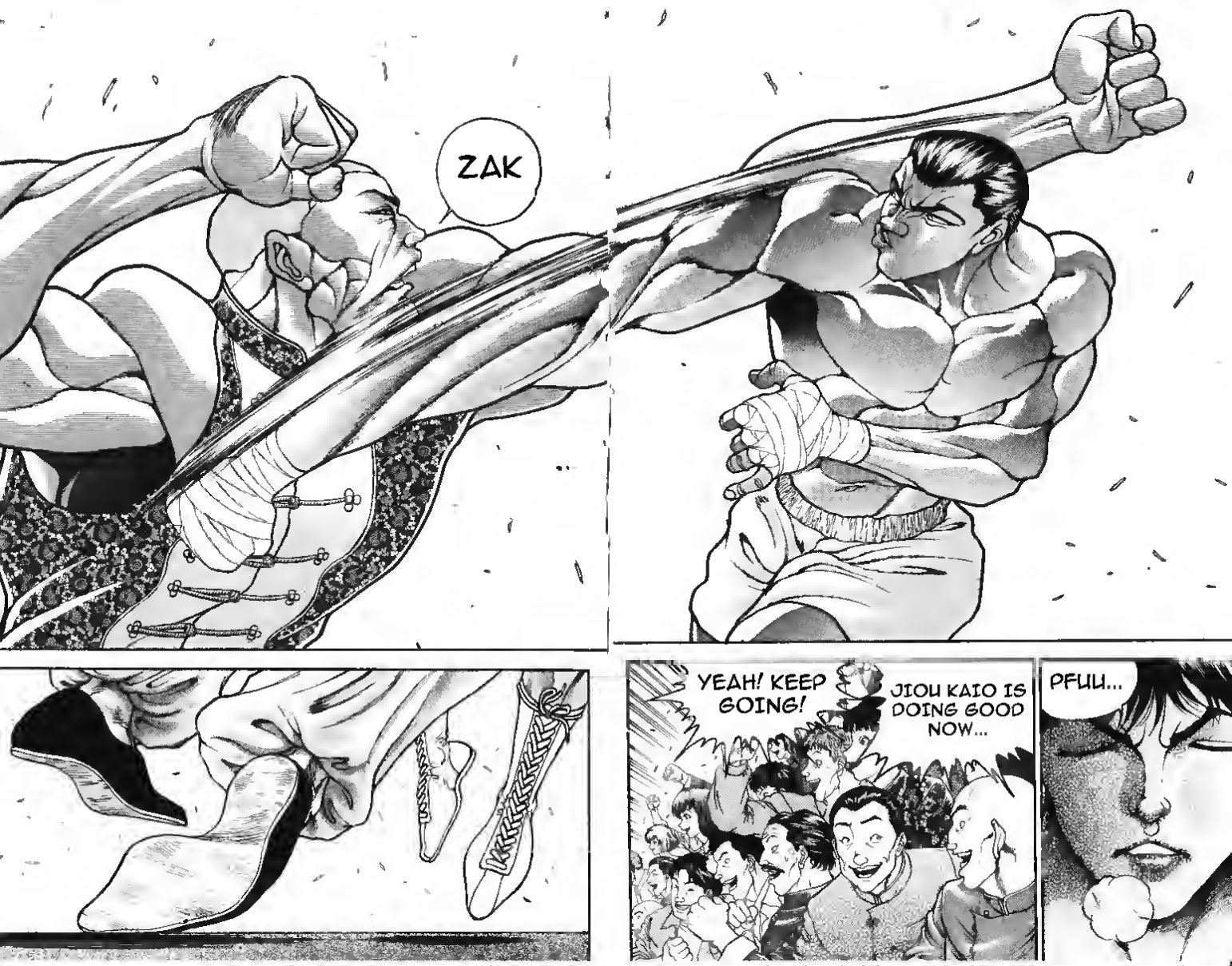
NO... IT'S TOO SOON!!





THE KAIOH ARE LOSING FACE....
THE OPPONENT IS WAITING FOR KAIOU'S RECOVERY.

HE'S DOING GOOD SO FAR...
BUT...
HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S RECOVERED...


ZAK
YEAH! KEEP GOING!
JIOU KAIO IS DOING GOOD NOW...
PFUU...

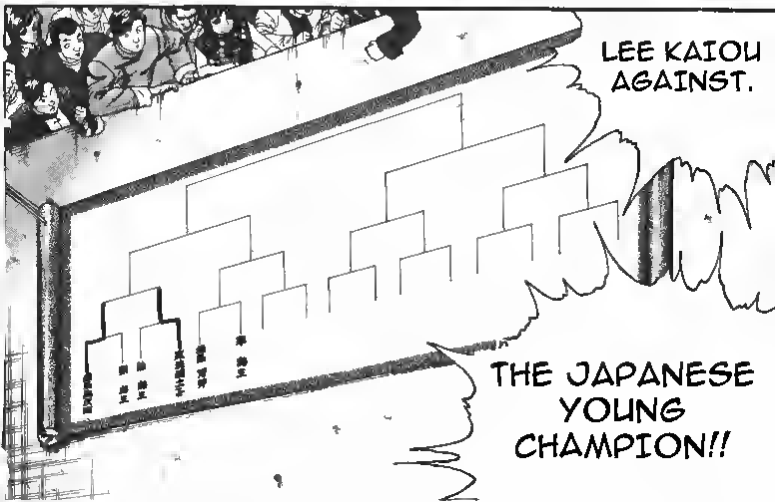
HE WAS MEASURING THE HITS UNTIL HE FOUND THE OPENING FOR THE BEST SHOT.
WELL, HE WASN'T WAITING FOR KAIOU'S RECOVERY,
IT'S OVER..
THE GREAT RAITAI!! ONCE IN A HUNDRED YEARS YOU GET TO SEE SKILL LIKE THIS!!!

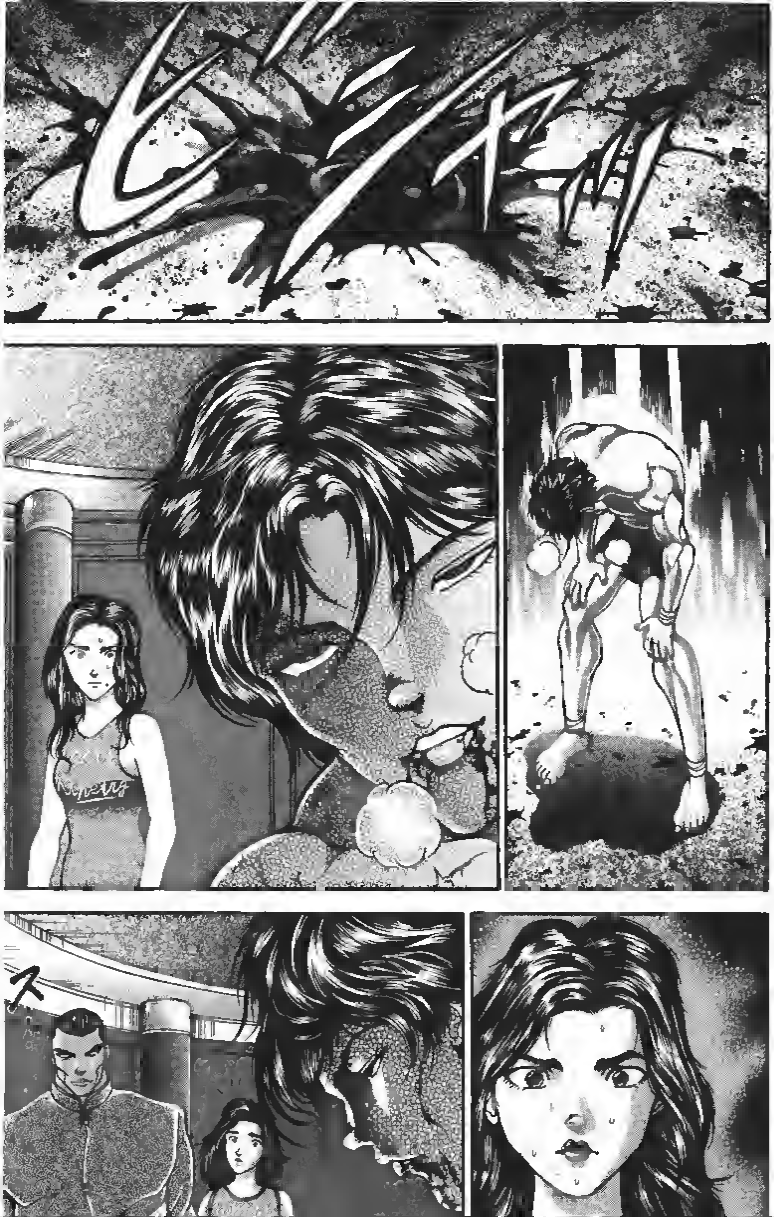
範馬刃牙

HANMA BAKI

李海王

LEE KAIOU

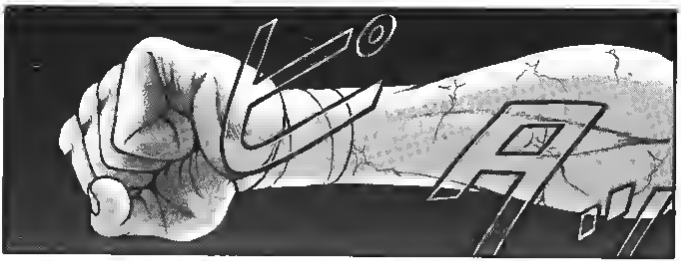




NO PROBLEM HERE...
BAKI...
BEFORE YOU FIGHT, KNOW THIS...
HE IS THE MOST SKILLED AND FEARED USER OF "POISON ARTS" IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY...
YOUR OPPONENT, LEE KAIOU HAS MASTERED THE "SNAKE HANDS" WHICH IS NOT FORBIDDEN IN TOURNAMENTS IN CHINA...

CHAPTER
第184話
COURAGE

IN THE WHOLE COUNTRY ...
HE HAS THE BEST POISON HANDS ...
HE'S THE MASTER OF VENOMS...



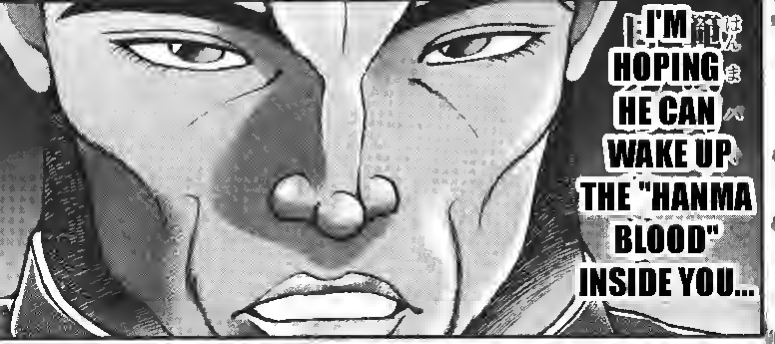
I SEE.. THAT'S GOOD..
YOU HAVE SUCH A GOOD LUCK...
SHU!
I WAS HOPING YOU'LL HAVE A FIGHT WITH HIM TODAY.
SHU!
HAH!

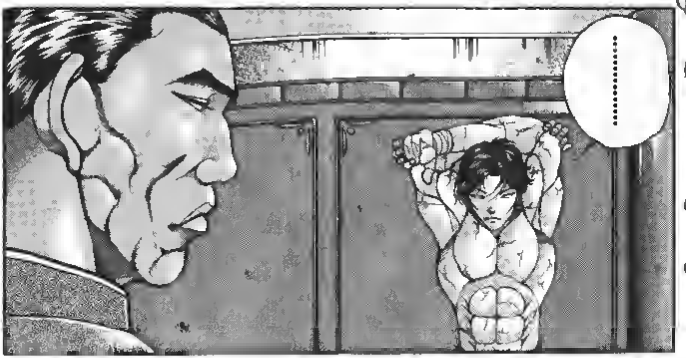
LUCKY? YOU SAID?

HOW CAN YOU SAY I'M LUCKY?
HAH!

PLUS, HE HAS THE BEST "SNAKE HANDS" OF CHINA ...

THE TITLE "KAIOU" HAS ALREADY SCARED ME WELL ENOUGH.


I'M HOPING HE CAN WAKE UP THE "HANMA BLOOD" INSIDE YOU...


.....

KIM UO

HEY RETSU

SORRY, WHAT DID YOU...?

YOU CAN'T FUCKING TOY WITH HIS LIFE LIKE THAT!!!

BETTING ON HIM WAKING UP?! THAT'S HORRIBLE..

NO WAY IN FUCKING HELL I'LL LET YOU DO THAT!!

THINK I CAN'T DO IT, JUST WATCH ME...
I'LL KICK YOUR ASS RIGHT NOW!!

PLEASE... STOP...

IT'S OKAY NOW...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU... I'M NOT AFRAID ANYMORE...

THE COURAGE I WISHED FOR SO LONG!!!
た!!!
YOU JUST GAVE ME...
ぶ
た……

DON'T WORRY, I'LL WIN...

WITH ONLY 17 YEARS OLD!!
BAKI IS THE NUMBER ONE JAPANESE CHAMPION!
AND NOW HE WANTS TO CONQUER THE 100 YEARS OF RAITAI!!

ALSO TRYING FORTUNE ON THE RAITAI IS...
LEE KAIOU...
AND THE INDISPUTED MEDICINAL MASTER OF CHINA...
OUR PROUD HERO... INVINCIBLE WARRIOR...

HERE COMES A SUDDEN KICK!!

RAGHH
!!
JIT

IT'S A CLEAN HIT!!
AUCH!!
HM..

RIGHT ON....
HAN KAIOU
HEN-OH-DO
MASTER

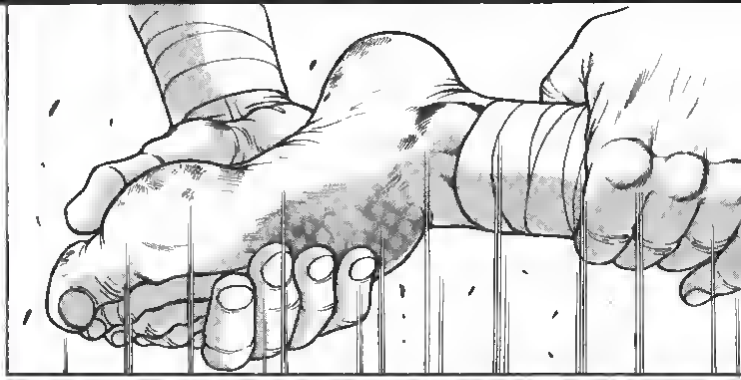
THE "SNAKE HANDS" RIGHT ON HIS FOOT!!!

CHAPTER
第185話
IT'S OVER ALREADY!?

オ
オ
オ
オ
オ

ALREAOY...
HE'S GOT ME?
うったッッ
くも…ッッ

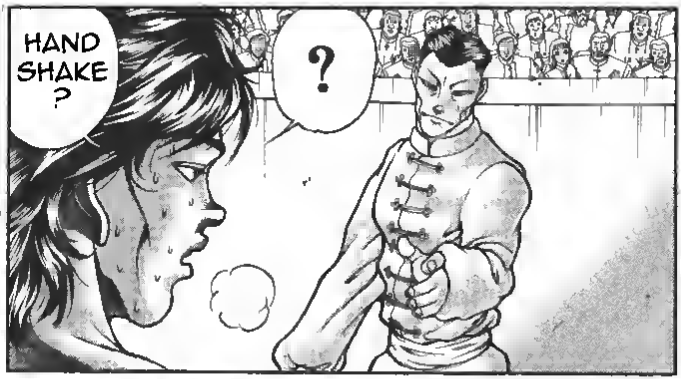
BAKI CAN'T FIGHT WITH THAT WOUND.
WHAT IS HE GOING TO DO!!?



SUCKING THE POISON?

ペッ
THANKS FOR WAITING ...
HEY THAT'S NICE...
NO DOUBT ABOUT IT...

YOU ARE A NICE GUY...
HE'S GOT POISONED FOR SURE.


HAND SHAKE ?
?

I SEE, HOT HANDS ...

OKAY...
I'LL PLAY YA...

TRYING TSUI SHU, WITH A KAIDU ? THE KID WANTS TO DIE!!
IT' S TSUI-SHU,

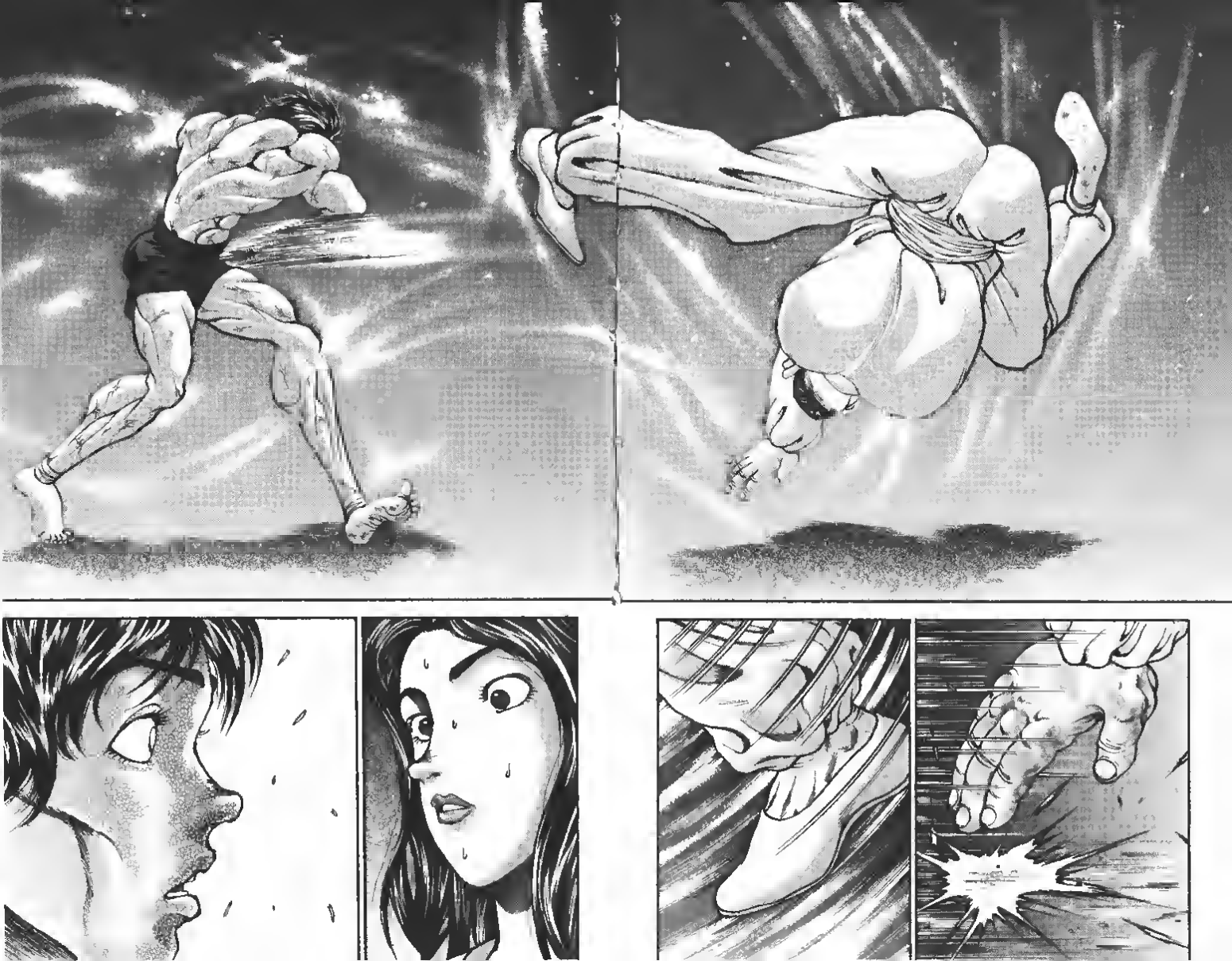
THE FIGHT IS GOING TO FINISH SOON.

BAKI CHOSE THE TSUI-SHU...

ガッ!!

ガ!!!

YAWARA
!!??
USING
AIKIDO
NOW?!!



SO THIS IS YAWARA

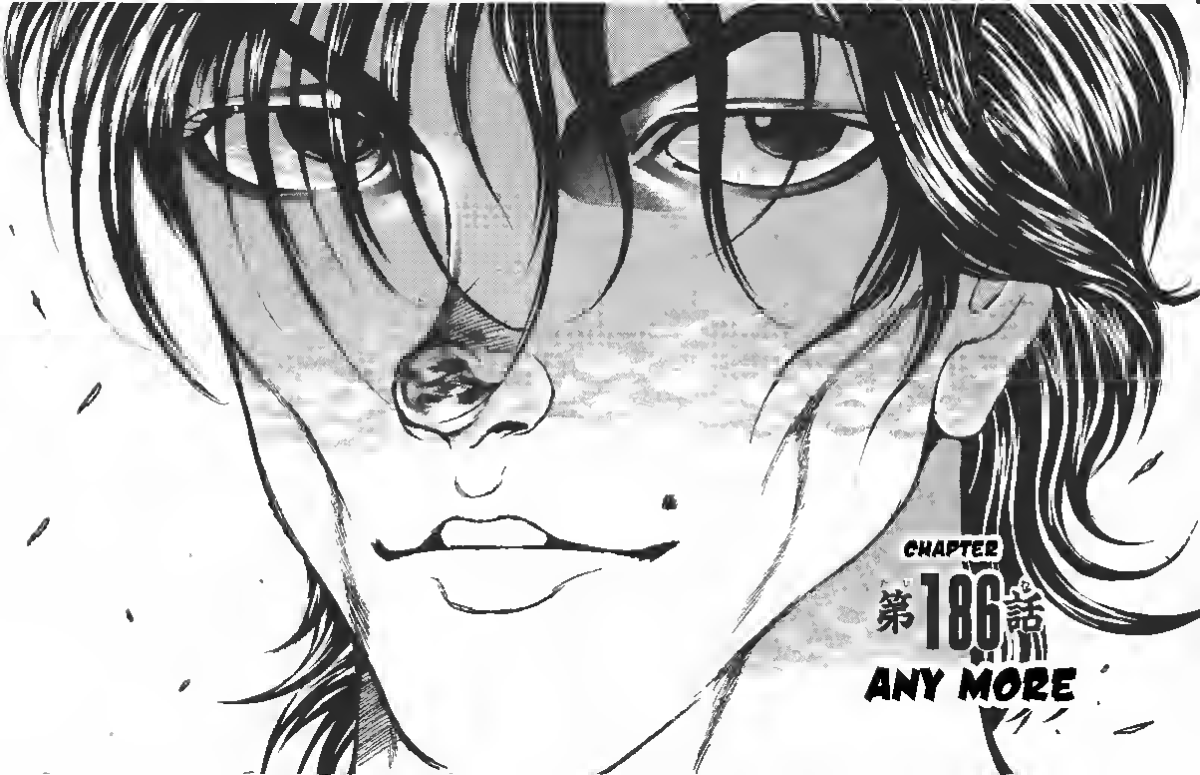
HE RECEIVED IT!
HE DIDN'T GET HIT!

I WANTED TO SEE ONE OF THE JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTS,
I THANK YOU FOR USING YAWARA...
Hm.

HA!... THIS FIGHT WILL BE OVER SOON.
ズキャ

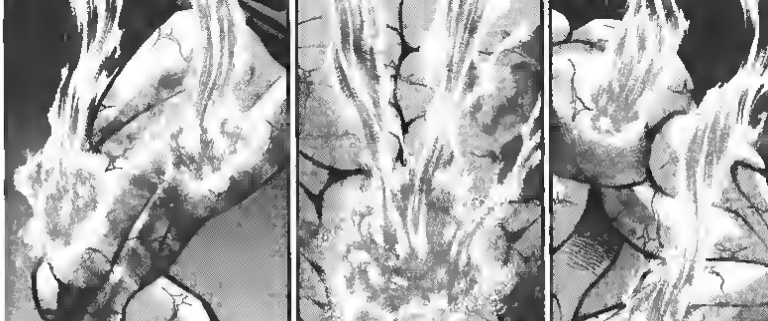
NO TIME TO LOSE... LET'S FINISH...

ホア


CHAPTER
第186話
ANY MORE

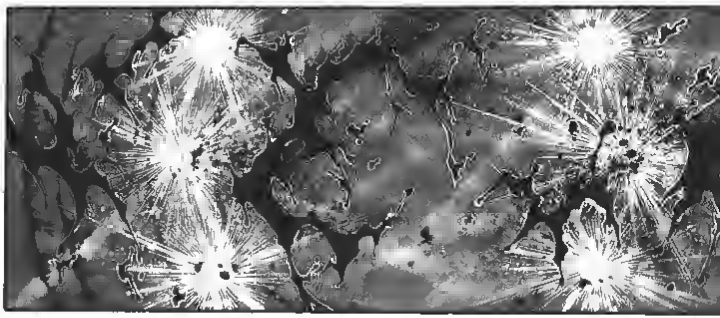
HIS HAND IS GETTING TIGHT!
THE "FANG PUNCH" OF THE DEADLY "SNAKE HANDS"
AGH !!!

I
FEEL
...



ANY
MORE...
ツ
ツ

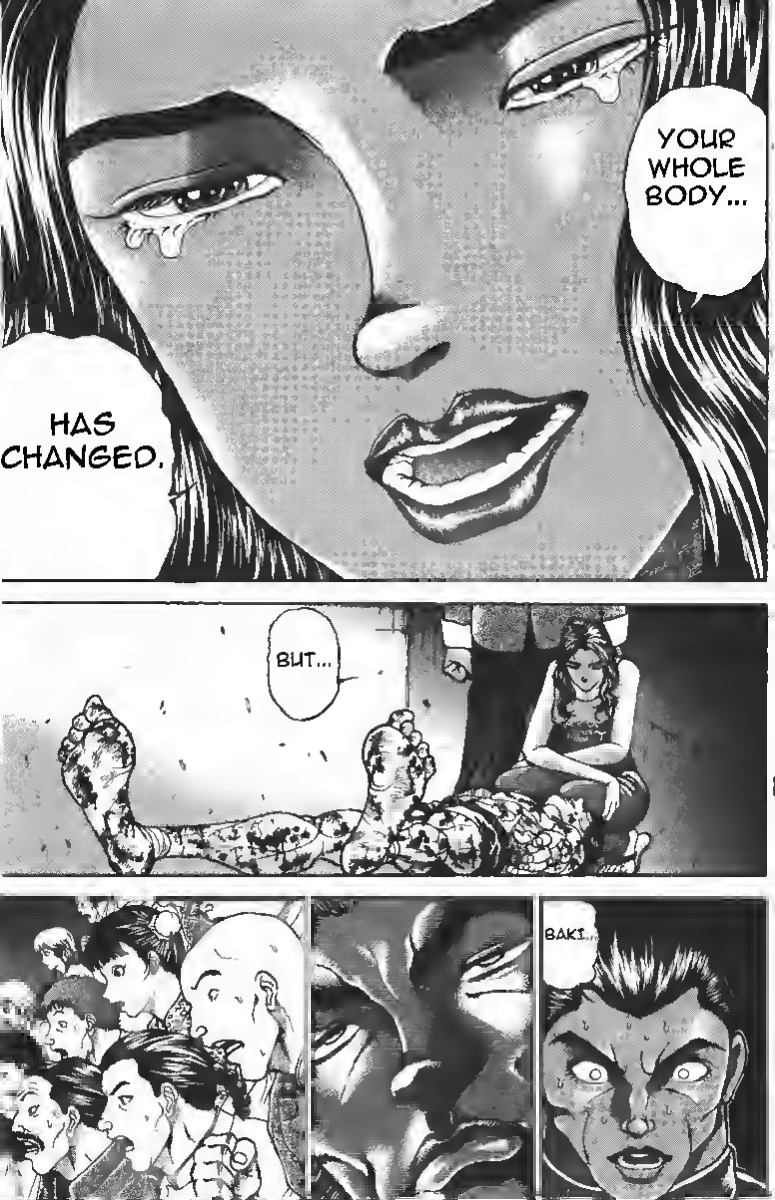
IT'S OVER.. YOU CAN'T FIGHT ANY MORE...



MFF..
MFF..
MFF...
MFF..

AH!
BAKI...
WHAT THE HELL...
YOUR BODY HAS CHANGED.

THE STRONG LEGS....
YOU PUSHED TO THE LIMIT...
THEY'RE GONE TOO...
THE THICK ARMS....
YOU WORKED SO HARD...
THEY'RE GONE...
THAT STEEL BODY EVERYONE FEARED.. GONE..

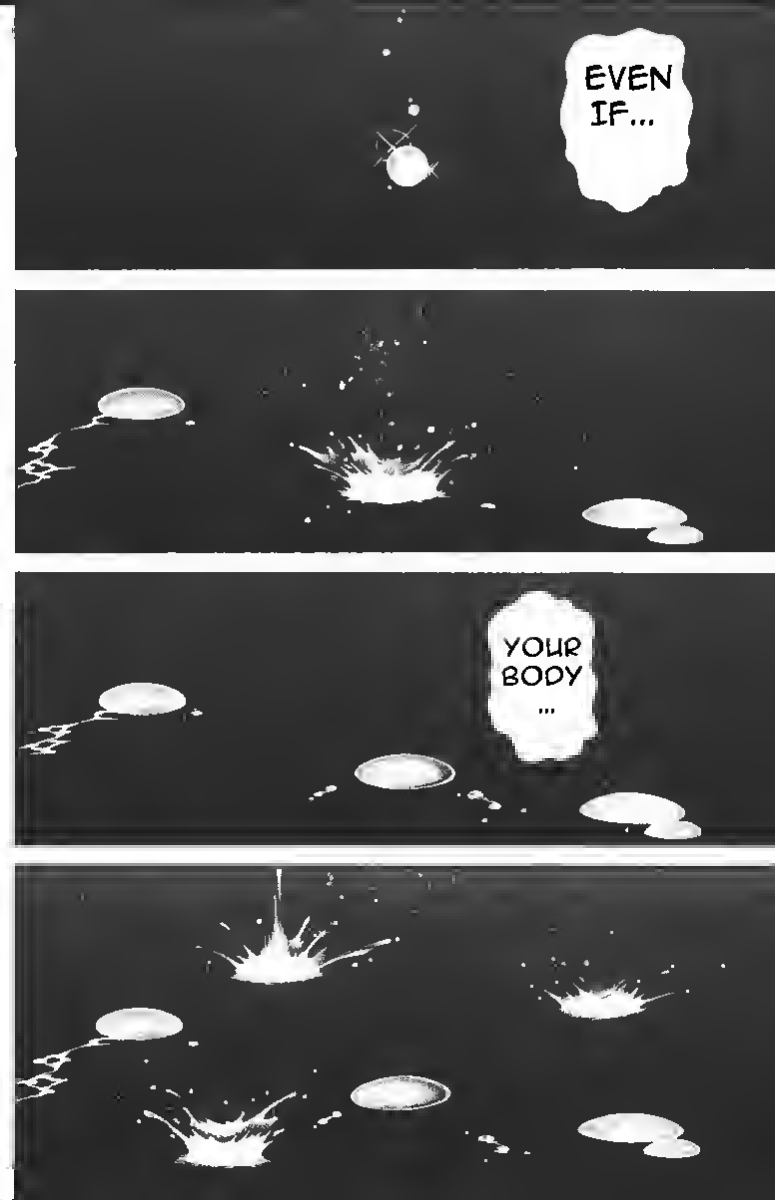

YOUR WHOLE BODY...
HAS CHANGED.
BUT...
BAKI...

YOU ARE
STILL
THE
SAME...

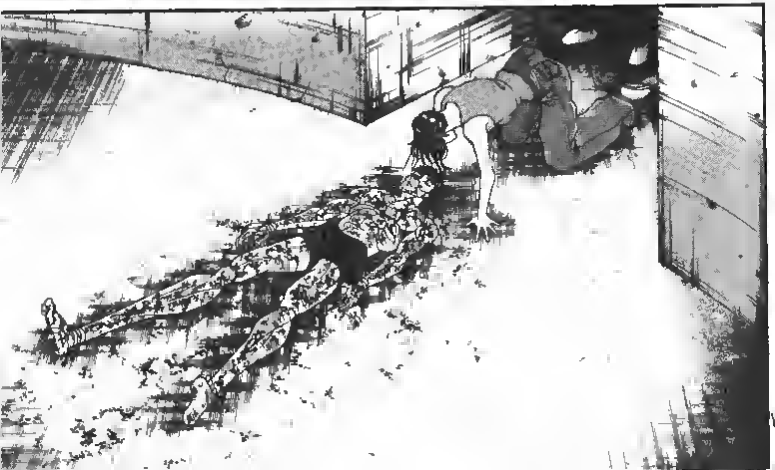
YOUR SILLINESS...
YOUR SMILES...
YOUR BAD JOKES...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGE A THING...
THE WAY YOU ARE...
PIP
PIP

THAT LITTLE DEVIL...
HE'S GOT THE BEST WOMAN ONE COULD EVER FIND...
THE POISON IS BEING CLEANSED ?
THE POI- SON...

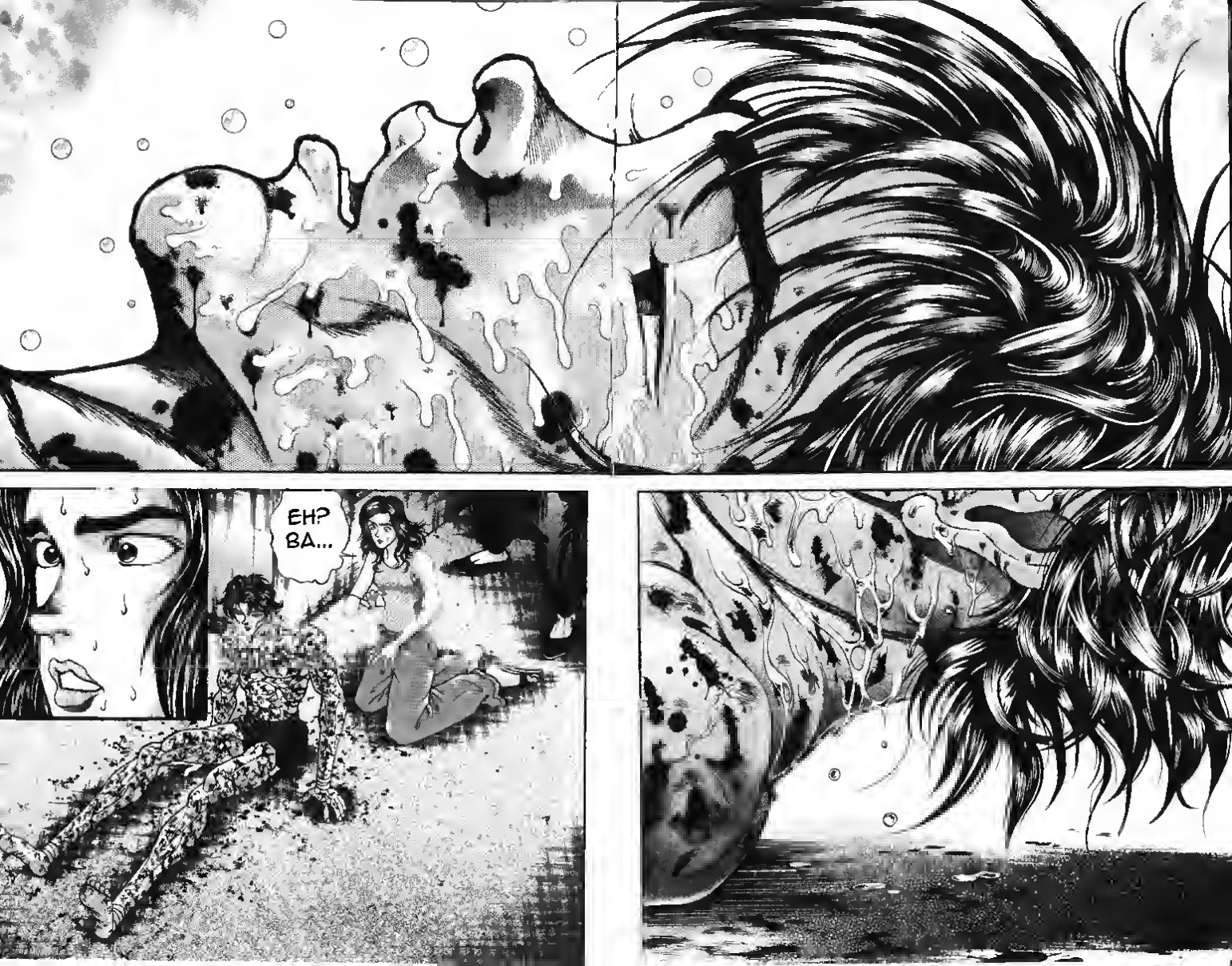
CHAPTER
第187話
DISTRACTED!


EVEN IF...
YOUR BODY ...

どんなに変わっても
CHANGES IN ANY WAY, IS OKAY...



YOU ALWAYS GONNA BE THE BAKI...
あなたは決(けっ)して変(か)わらない…ッッッ
PIP
PIP
PIP
PIP
PIP
THAT SAVES MY DAY WITH A LAUGH...


EH?
BA...

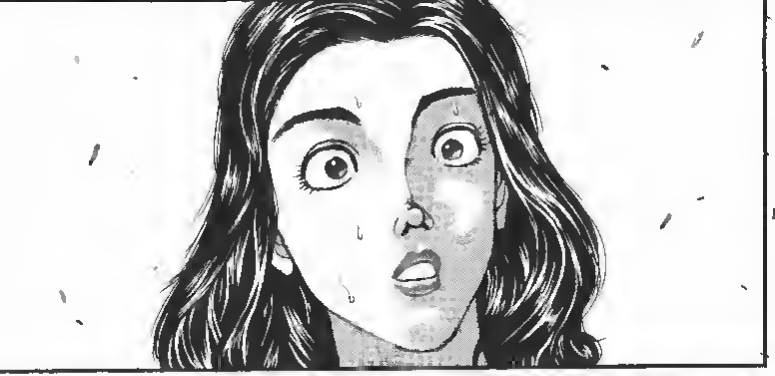
GLUP!
BIP

HEH!

ウオ!!

NO WAY...
HOW DID YOU..

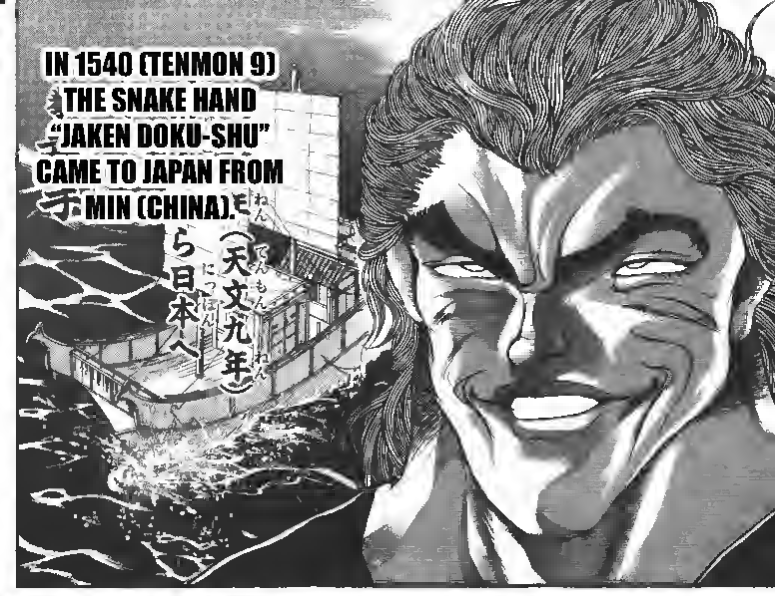
HE GOT CURED, THE POISON HAS NO EFFECT ANYMORE!!
MISS KOZUE.
CURED.. BUT I JUST...
YOU SAVED BAKI!!

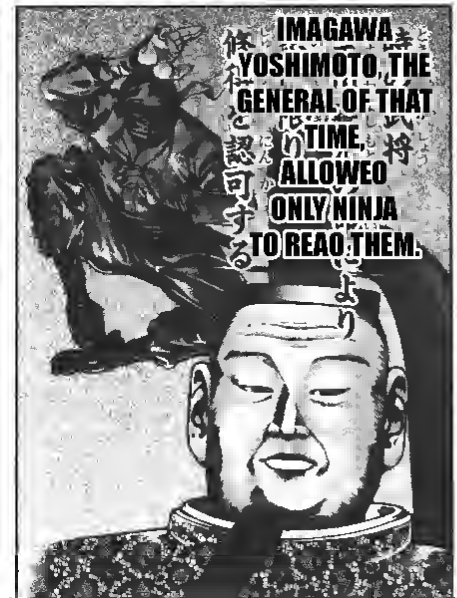


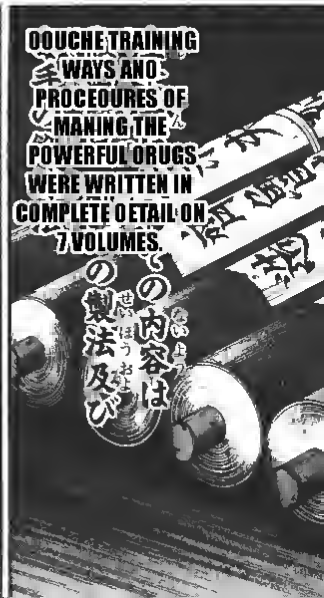
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT BUT GOOD JOB, THANKS!!
YOU'VE DONE IT VERY WELL! MISS KOZUE..

JUST CURED HIM... MEDICINAL MASTER, HELL YEAH!

HEY... YOUR DUMBASS BROTHER..


IN 1540 (TENMON 9)
THE SNAKE HAND
"JAKEN DOKU-SHU"
CAME TO JAPAN FROM
MIN (CHINA).
(天文九年)
ら日本へ

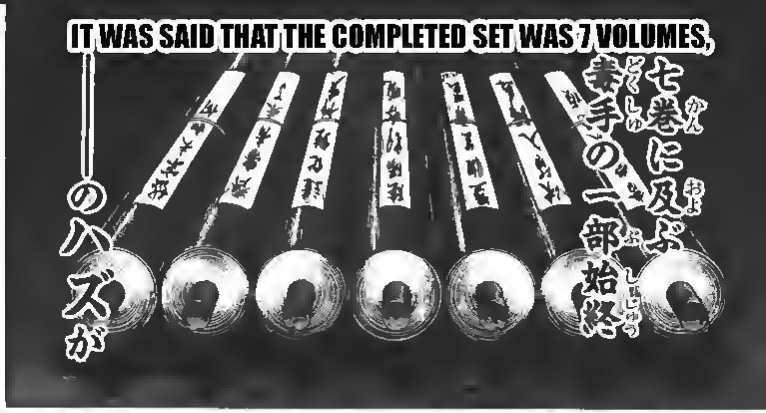

IMAGAWA
YOSHIMOTO, THE
GENERAL OF THAT
TIME,
ALLOWED
ONLY NINJA
TO READ THEM.
より

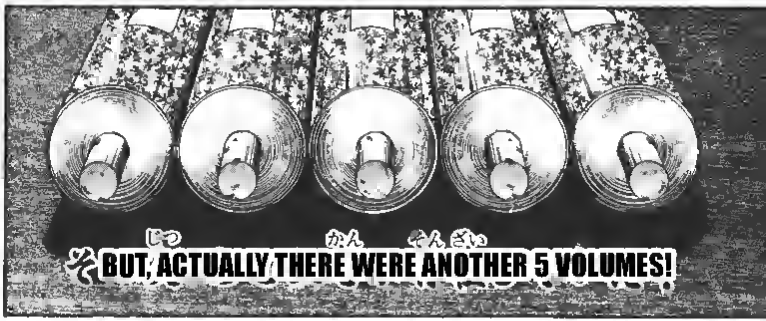

OOUCHE TRAINING
WAYS AND
PROCEDURES OF
MAKING THE
POWERFUL DRUGS
WERE WRITTEN IN
COMPLETE DETAIL ON
7 VOLUMES.
の内容は
の製法及び

THE NINJAS WHO READ THEM KILLED ALMOST 90%
OF THE OPPOSING FORCE LEAD BY HOKUJOUJI YASUKAWA.

SINCE THEN FOR ALMOST 4 CENTURIES...
OOKU-SHU HAS BEEN INHERITED SECRETLY.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A HAPPY ENDING... BUT,
CHINESE HISTORY ALWAYS HAS TO CORRUPT ITSELF IN SOME POINT OF LIFE...

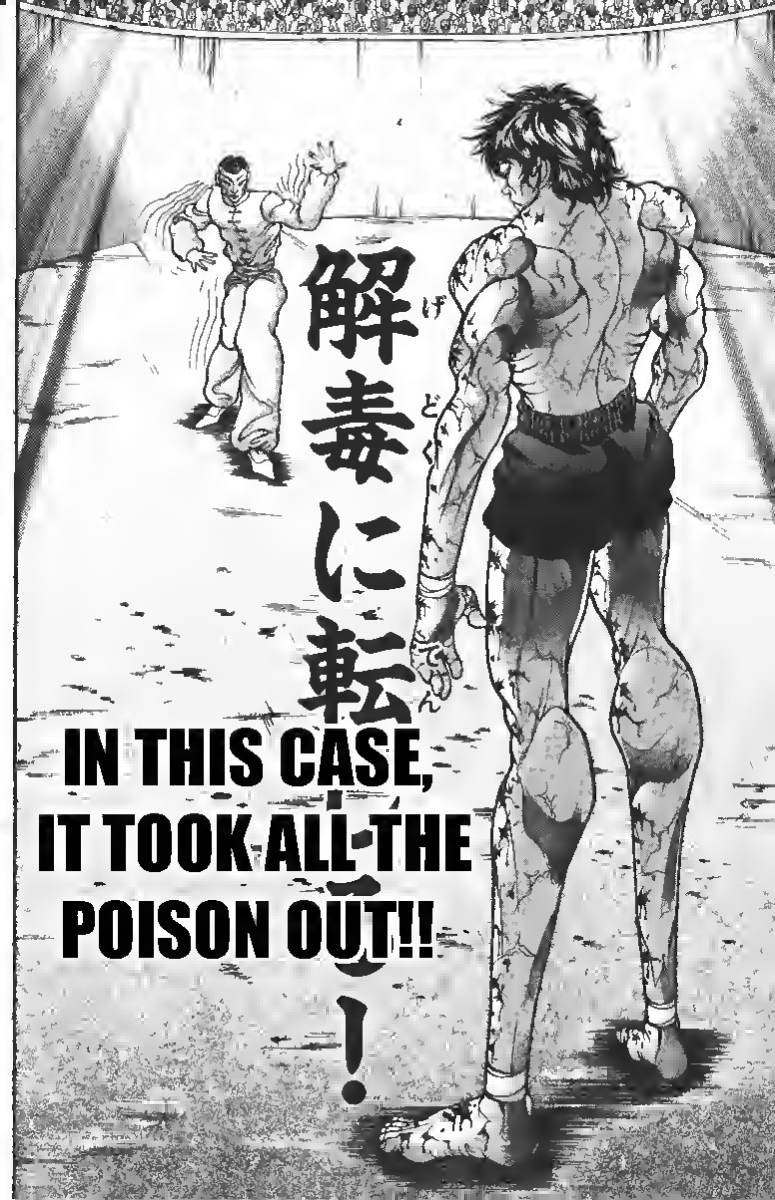

IT WAS SAID THAT THE COMPLETED SET WAS 7 VOLUMES,
七巻に及ぶ
拳手の一部始終
のハズが


BUT, ACTUALLY THERE WERE ANOTHER 5 VOLUMES!

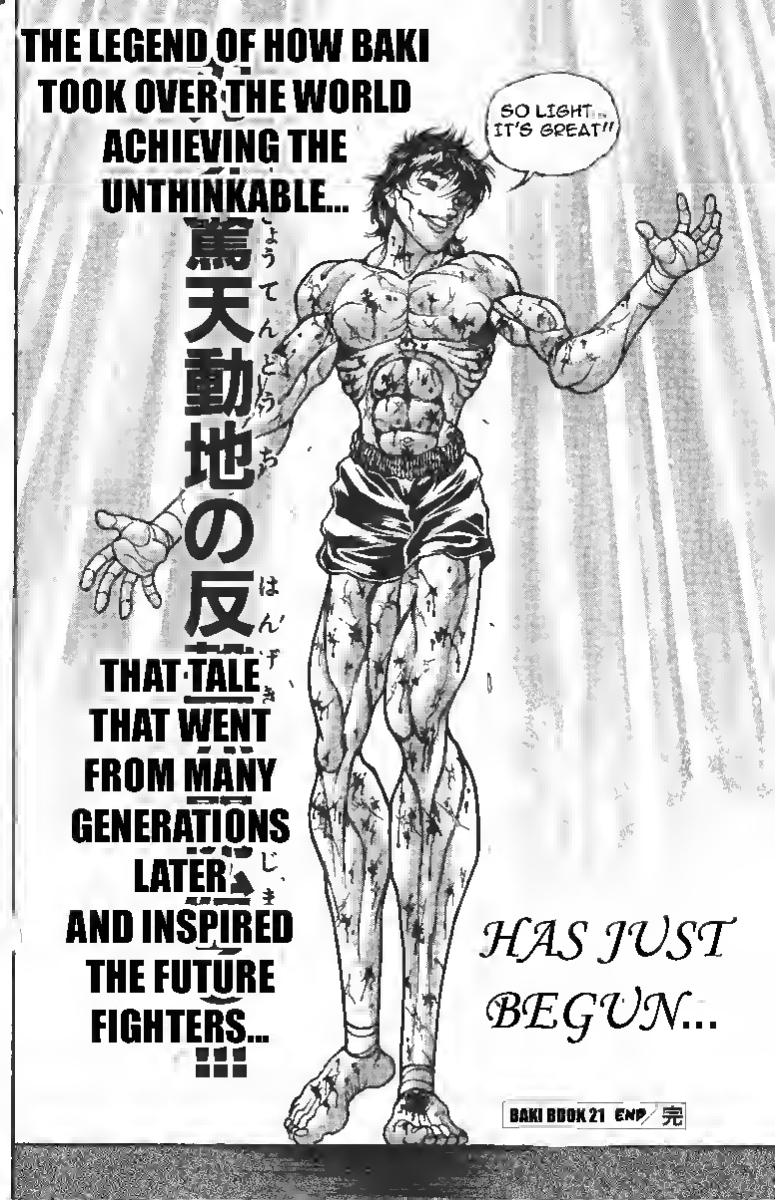
THE FIRST 7 WERE NEGATIVE SNAKE HANDS.
THE LATER 5 WERE POSITIVE SNAKE HANDS.

THE PERFECT SET CONSISTS OF ALL THE 12 NEGATIVE AND POSITIVE VOLUMES!!!
陰陽相まって
二十二巻を以て
完全とする!!!

ONLY UNDER A CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.
限られたのみ
POSITIVE ONE IS ALSO POISONING, BUT...


解毒に転じて！
IN THIS CASE, IT TOOK ALL THE POISON OUT!!

AND FINALLY, AFTER THE BODY IS PURE AGAIN...
いに
IT DOES "SOMETHING"...
そこ
IT'S WEIRD... MY BODY FEELS....


THE LEGEND OF HOW BAKI TOOK OVER THE WORLD ACHIEVING THE UNTHINKABLE...
驚天動地の反
THAT TALE THAT WENT FROM MANY GENERATIONS LATER AND INSPIRED THE FUTURE FIGHTERS...!!!
SO LIGHT... IT'S GREAT!!
HAS JUST BEGUN...
BAKI BOOK 21 END 完

SPECIAL THANKS

MULTI FOR SPONSORING THIS INCREDIBLE VOLUME

TALIA MY GIRLFRIEND: FOR LETTING ME GO CRAZY FOR A WEEK AND HALF OF EDITING OVERNIGHT, EVERY NIGHT...

The Strong is the Beautiful !!

THE WILD FANG PROJECT

PROJECT LEADER
ICHIDO REICHAN

EDITION, TEXT REVISION, QC AND EVERYTHING ELSE
ICHIDO REICHAN

TRANSLATION PROVIDED BY:
MIHO MORINAGA (JAPAN)

IN A SIDE NOTE I WANT TO CONGRATULATE MIHO FOR HER EXCELLENT, FAST TRANSLATIONS FROM HERE TILL THE END OF THE SERIES, SHE IS NOW OFFICIALLY "THE WILD FANG TRANSLATOR"

POISONED, REJECTED, KNOCKED OUT..GIRLFRIEND BEING STOLEN ON, AND POISONED AGAIN? AFTER ALL THAT IS TIME TO GIVE A LITTLE PAY BACK IN...

あんたをやっちゃえって……
毒を克、今、
IT'S TIME TO DROP THESE PUSSY VENOMS AND ENJOY AN OL'TIME CLASSIC PUNCH'N KICK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS..."
AND BAKI KNOWS HOW TO GET THE SHOW ROLLIN'
目を覆うこの光景
ダはげる!?

ALSO, KAKU KAIOH FIRST MATCH, YUUJIRO MAKES ANOTHER CLASSIC COMMENTS, AND EVEN OLIVA GET SOME BORROWED SCREEN TIME. ALL THIS AND MORE IN BAKI 22...AGAIN, SOONER THAN EXPECTED...

[刃牙] The Baki Journal

By Iohido Reichan

FROM PANCREATION TO MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

ONE OF THE EARLIEST FORMS OF WIDESPREAD UNARMED COMBAT SPORTS WITH MINIMAL RULES WAS GREEK PANKRATION WHICH WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN 648 B.C [12]

NO-HOLDS-BARRED EVENTS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN THE LATE 1800S WHEN WRESTLERS REPRESENTING A HUGE RANGE OF FIGHTING STYLES INCLUDING VARIOUS CATCH WRESTLING STYLES GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING AND MANY OTHERS MET IN TOURNAMENTS AND MUSIC-HALL CHALLENGE MATCHES THROUGHOUT EUROPE.[CITATION NEEDED] THE FIRST MAJOR ENCOUNTER BETWEEN A BOXER AND A WRESTLER IN MODERN TIMES TOOK PLACE IN 1887 WHEN JOHN L. SULLIVAN, THEN HEAVYWEIGHT WORLD BOXING CHAMPION, ENTERED THE RING WITH HIS TRAINER, GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING CHAMPION WILLIAM MULDOON, AND WAS SLAMMED TO THE MAT IN TWO MINUTES. THE NEXT PUBLICIZED ENCOUNTER OCCURRED IN THE LATE 1890S WHEN FUTURE HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CHAMPION BOB FITZSIMMONS TOOK ON EUROPEAN GRECO-ROMAN WRESTLING CHAMPION ERNEST ROEBER. REPORTEDLY, ROEBER SUFFERED A FRACTURED CHEEKBONE IN THIS BOUT, BUT WAS ABLE TO GET FITZSIMMONS DOWN ON THE MAT, WHERE HE APPLIED AN ARMLOCK AND MADE THE BOXER SUBMIT. IN 1996 HEAVYWEIGHT BOXING CONTENDER KINGFISH LEVINSKY AND VETERAN PROFESSIONAL WRESTLER RAY STEELE COMPETED IN A MIXED MATCH, WHICH STEELE WON IN 35 SECONDS.[13]

ANOTHER EARLY EXAMPLE OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMBAT WAS THE MARTIAL ART OF BARTITSU, FOUNDED IN LONDON IN 1899, WHICH WAS THE FIRST MARTIAL ART KNOWN TO HAVE COMBINED ASIAN AND EUROPEAN FIGHTING STYLES.[14] AND WHICH SAW MMA-STYLE CONTESTS THROUGHOUT ENGLAND, PITTING EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE CHAMPIONS AGAINST REPRESENTATIVES OF VARIOUS EUROPEAN WRESTLING STYLES.[14]

BOXING VS. JUJUTSU CONTESTS WERE POPULAR ENTERTAINMENTS THROUGHOUT EUROPE, JAPAN AND THE PACIFIC RIM DURING THE EARLY 1900S. IN JAPAN, THESE CONTESTS WERE KNOWN AS MERIKAN, FROM THE JAPANESE SLANG FOR "AMERICAN [FIGHTING]". MERIKAN CONTESTS WERE FOUGHT UNDER A VARIETY OF RULES INCLUDING POINTS DECISION, BEST OF THREE THROWS OR KNOCKDOWNS, AND VICTORY VIA KNOCKOUT OR SUBMISSION.[CITATION NEEDED]

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING DIED OUT AFTER WORLD WAR I AND WAS REBORN IN TWO STREAMS, "SHOOT" IN WHICH THE FIGHTERS ACTUALLY COMPETED AND "SHOW," WHICH EVOLVED INTO MODERN SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING.[13]

NEXT RELEASE DATE ON 31 OF AUGUST AND 1RST OF SEPTEMBER

MODERN MIXED MARTIAL ARTS TOURNAMENTS ARE ROOTED IN TWO INTERCONNECTED MOVEMENTS. FIRST WERE THE VALE TUDO EVENTS IN BRAZIL, FOLLOWED BY THE JAPANESE SHOOT WRESTLING SHOWS. VALE TUDO BEGAN IN THE 1920S WITH THE "GRACIE CHALLENGE" ISSUED BY CARLOS GRACIE AND HÉLIO GRACIE AND UPHELD LATER ON BY DESCENDANTS OF THE GRACIE FAMILY.[12] IN JAPAN IN THE 1970S, A SERIES OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS MATCHES WERE HOSTED BY ANTONIO INOKI, INSPIRING THE SHOOT-STYLE MOVEMENT IN JAPANESE PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING, WHICH EVENTUALLY LED TO THE FORMATION OF THE FIRST MIXED MARTIAL ARTS ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS SHOOTO, WHICH WAS FORMED IN 1985.[CITATION NEEDED] THE CONCEPT OF COMBINING THE ELEMENTS OF MULTIPLE MARTIAL ARTS WAS PIONEERED AND POPULARIZED BY BRUCE LEE IN THE LATE 1960'S TO EARLY 1970'S. LEE BELIEVED THAT "THE BEST FIGHTER IS NOT A BOXER, KARATE OR JUDO MAN. THE BEST FIGHTER IS SOMEONE WHO CAN ADAPT TO ANY STYLE." HIS INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY UFC PRESIDENT DANA WHITE, WHO CALLED HIM THE "FATHER OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS".[16]

MIXED MARTIAL ARTS GAINED SIGNIFICANT INTERNATIONAL EXPOSURE AND WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1993, WHEN ROYCE GRACIE WON THE FIRST ULTIMATE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIP, SPARKING A REVOLUTION IN THE MARTIAL ARTS.[3] IN JAPAN IN 1997, THE CONTINUED INTEREST IN THE SPORT EVENTUALLY RESULTED IN THE CREATION OF THE PRIDE FIGHTING CHAMPIONSHIPS.[4]

CHUCK LIDDELL (RIGHT) AND TITO ORTIZ BROKE PPV RECORDS WITH THEIR REMATCH AT UFC 66, THE UNITED STATES ARMY BEGAN TO SANCTION MIXED MARTIAL ARTS WHEN THE US ARMY COMBATIVES SCHOOL HELD THE FIRST ANNUAL ALL ARMY COMBATIVES CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOV 2005

THE SPORT REACHED A NEW PEAK OF POPULARITY IN THE DECEMBER 2006 REMATCH BETWEEN THEN LIGHT-HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION CHUCK LIDDELL AND FORMER CHAMPION TITO ORTIZ, RIVALING THE PPV SALES OF SOME OF THE BIGGEST BOXING EVENTS OF ALL TIME.[2] AND HELPING THE UFC'S 2006 PPV GROSS SURPASS THAT OF ANY PROMOTION IN PPV HISTORY. IN 2007, ZUFFA LLC, THE OWNERS OF UFC, BOUGHT PRIDE, CREATING STRONG TIES BETWEEN THE SPORT'S TWO LARGEST PROMOTERS.[17] AND DRAWING COMPARISONS TO THE CONSOLIDATION THAT OCCURRED IN OTHER SPORTS, SUCH AS THE AFL-NFL MERGER IN AMERICAN FOOTBALL.[18]

[EDIT] EVOLUTION OF FIGHTERS

AS A RESULT OF SPORTING EVENTS, MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING AND THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMBAT EFFECTIVENESS OF VARIOUS STRATEGIES HAVE BEEN ARGUED TO HAVE EVOLVED MORE IN THE TEN YEARS FOLLOWING 1993 THAN IN THE PRECEDING 700 YEARS.[19]

THE EARLY YEARS OF THE SPORT SAW THE WIDEST POSSIBLE VARIETY OF TRADITIONAL STYLES—EVERYTHING FROM SUMO TO KICKBOXING— THE CONTINUAL EVOLUTION OF THE SPORT HAS GRADUALLY ELIMINATED LESS EFFECTIVE TECHNIQUES AND "PURE" STYLES, USUALLY BECAUSE SPECIALIZED FIGHTERS WERE LACKING IN SKILLS TO DEAL WITH BROADER TECHNIQUES.

IN THE EARLY 1990S, THREE STYLES STOOD OUT FOR THEIR EFFECTIVENESS IN COMPETITION: BRAZILIAN JIU-JITSU, AMATEUR WRESTLING AND SHOOT WRESTLING. THIS MAY BE ATTRIBUTABLE IN PART TO THE GRAPPLING EMPHASIS OF THE AFOREMENTIONED STYLES, WHICH, PERHAPS DUE TO THE SCARCITY OF MIXED MARTIAL ARTS COMPETITIONS PRIOR TO THE EARLY 90S, HAD BEEN NEGLECTED BY MOST PRACTITIONERS OF STRIKING BASED ARTS.

FIGHTERS THAT COMBINED AMATEUR WRESTLING WITH STRIKING TECHNIQUES DOMINATED THE STANDING PORTION OF A FIGHT, WHILST BRAZILIAN JIU JITSU STYLISTS HAD A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE ON THE GROUND. THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH SUBMISSION GRAPPLING PROVED TO BE UNPREPARED TO DEAL WITH ITS SUBMISSION TECHNIQUES. SHOOT WRESTLING PRACTITIONERS OFFERED A BALANCE OF AMATEUR WRESTLING ABILITY AND CATCH WRESTLING BASED SUBMISSIONS RESULTING IN A GENERALLY WELL ROUNDED SET OF SKILLS. THE SHOOT WRESTLERS WERE ESPECIALLY SUCCESSFUL IN JAPAN, WHERE THE THIS STYLE INITIALLY DOMINATED OTHERS.

AS COMPETITIONS BECAME MORE AND MORE COMMON, THOSE WITH A BASE IN STRIKING BECAME MORE COMPETITIVE AS THEY ACQUAINTED THEMSELVES WITH TAKEDOWNS AND SUBMISSION HOLDS, LEADING TO NOTABLE UPSETS AGAINST THE DOMINANT GRAPPLERS. SUBSEQUENTLY THOSE FROM THE VARYING GRAPPLING STYLES LEARNED FROM EACH OTHER'S STRENGTHS AND SHORTCOMINGS AND ADDED STRIKING TECHNIQUES TO THEIR ARSENAL. THIS OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF INCREASED CROSS-TRAINING RESULTED IN THE FIGHTERS BECOMING INCREASINGLY MULTI DIMENSIONAL AND WELL ROUNDED IN THEIR SKILLS

THANK YOU FOLKS FOR COMING TO THIS BAKI WEEKEND SPECIAL... BOOK 22-23 TO BE RELEASED NEXT WEEKEND STARTED FROM FRIDAY